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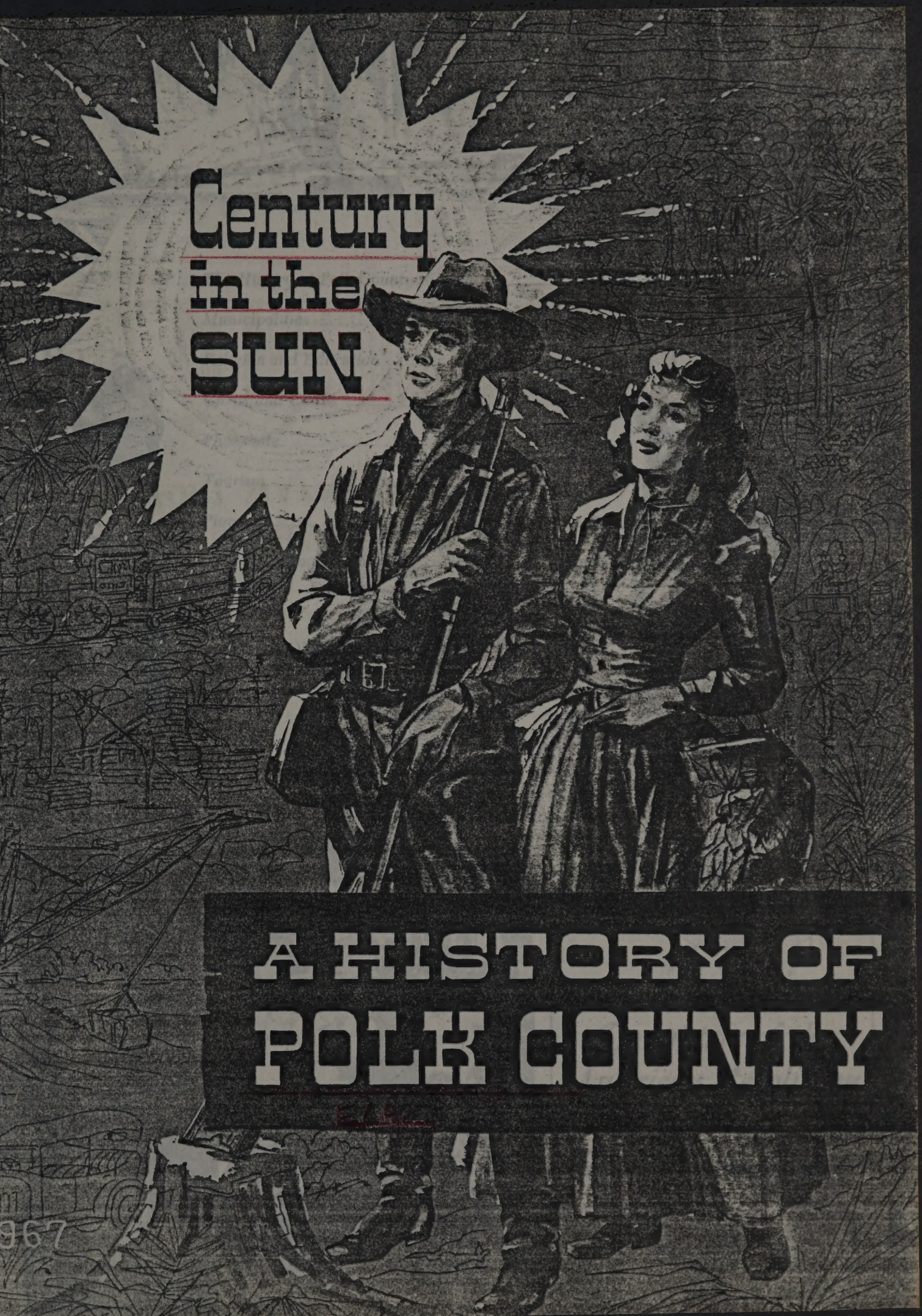
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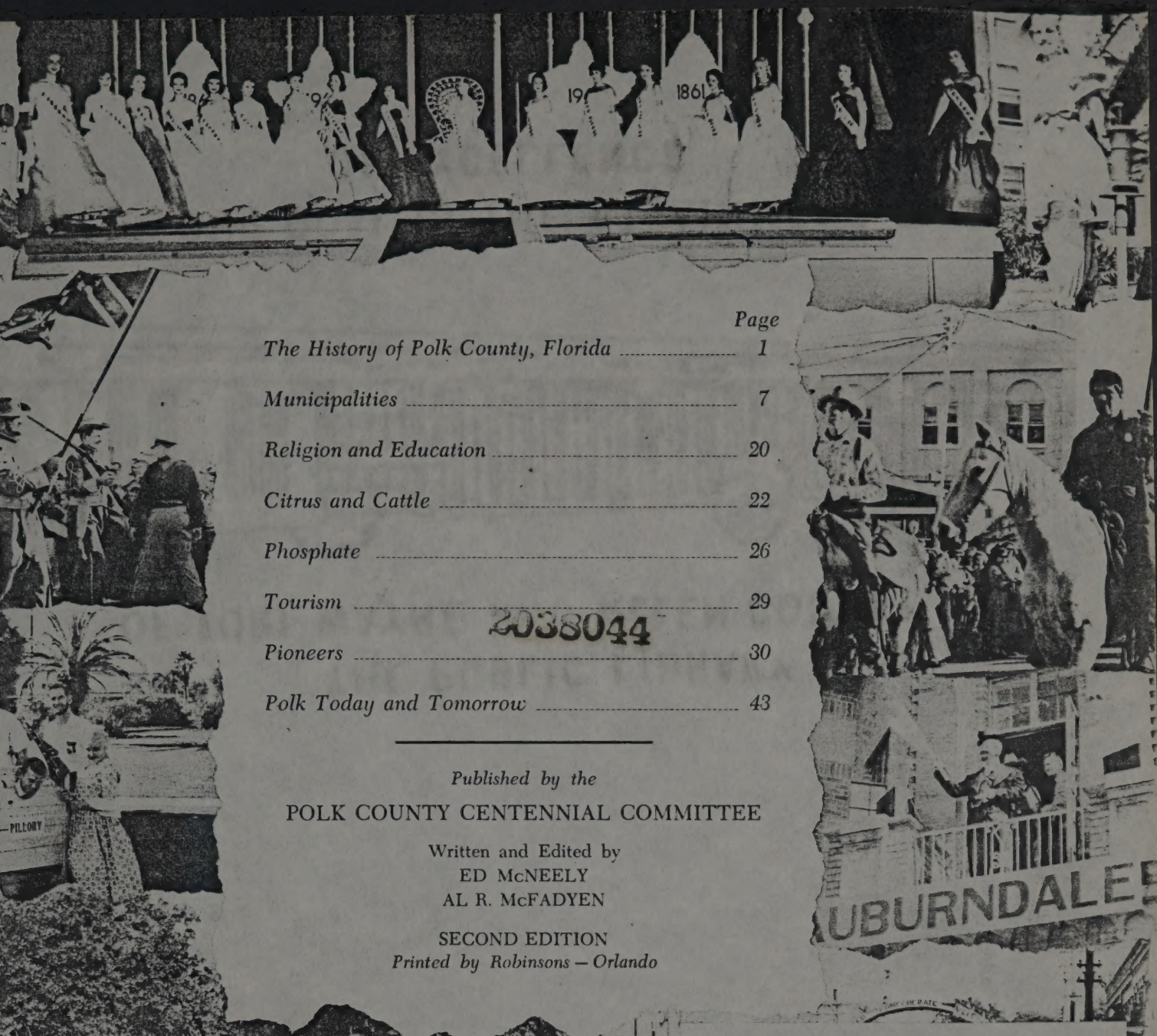

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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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FLORIDA STATE SOCIETY

Daughters of the American Revolution

DONOR'S NAME

Mrs. Mary E. Lowe Weaver

DATE July, 1967

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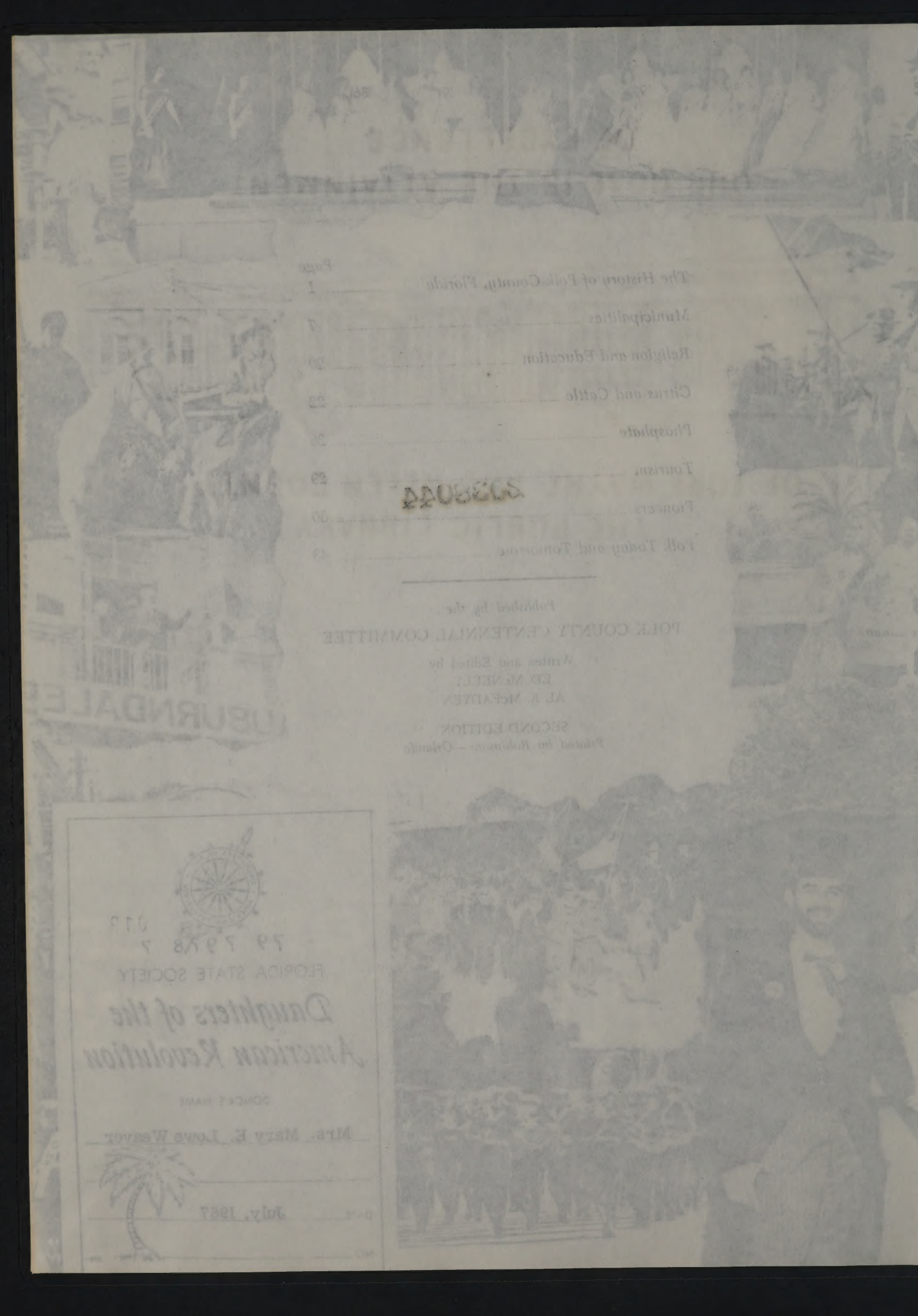

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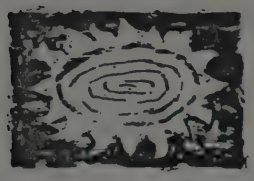


THE HISTORY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

The rolling hills and savannas which are now Polk County had a rich and colorful history long before the first American settlers hacked their way into Florida in the early 1800's. Much of this history is lost forever, but bits of it are being dug out of Polk's rich phosphate beds.

This living part of Polk's past predates the coming of humans and has been reduced to fossils buried under the endless sands of time.

Little is known also of the first human inhabitants of this area, but remnants found of the hidden past indicate Florida's early residents lived much in the same manner as the stone-age lake dwellers of Europe. They lived along the coasts and around lakes in crude shelters elevated on stilts. Their basic diet came from the water.

By the time of the earliest Spanish explorations into the New World, there were four completely individual tribes living in this area. The seagoing Caribs from South America had invaded Southern Florida and fiercely ruled all lands as far north as southern Polk and the Tampa Bay. These hostile warriors roamed the Caribbean Sea and defied all others, including the Spanish explorers.

The Spaniards, however, found Tomokans on the east coast quite friendly. Tomokan tribesmen ranged through the northeastern parts of Florida and possibly inland as far as the Kissimmee River – Polk's eastern border.

The Maskaki tribe claimed title to lands in the extreme north-central Polk and ranged northward through the ridge section. They, too, were reported to have been friendly to Spanish explorers. The Apalachees, centered in the Tallahassee area, claimed West Florida.

Seminoles were unknown in Polk until after 1750. Actually there were no Seminoles before this time. By nationality, the Seminoles were Creeks. They split away from their parent tribe in Georgia and resettled first in the Palatka area in 1750. Parent tribesmen, the Creeks, gave them their Seminole name, meaning "runaway".

Both the Creeks and their Seminole cousins were friendly to the English but hostile to the Spanish. The English used this friendship to their advantage during the Revolutionary War and turned the Seminoles against rebellious colonists in North Florida. England won Florida from the Spanish in 1763 and had sought to encourage settlements through generous land grants. Pressing problems in the old world led to ceding Florida back to the Spanish in 1783.

In the late 1500's Spanish missions had enjoyed some success with the Indians in parts of Central Florida. Remnants of two such missions have been discovered in Polk County. Citrus, important to Polk now, was important to these missions. Missionaries reportedly planted oranges which were loved by the Indians around the missions to induce the savages to remain close by.

Spanish sympathy to English forces during the War of 1812 led to vest-pocket hostilities between American forces and the Spanish which resulted in the "forced" sale of Florida to the Colonies in 1819. This opened the current chapter of Polk's history.

By the 1880's settlers were forging their way down the coasts and a few were driving on inland. One settlement was reported northwest of Lakeland as early as 1837. That same year there were at least two forts in what is now Polk County. One, Fort Fraser, was at the south end of Lake Hancock. Fort Gardiner was on the Kissimmee River just south of the present location of Mack's Fishing Camp.

These forts resulted from hostilities between the Seminoles and whites who had "invaded their homeland". Until 1835 the Indians and whites had enjoyed peace, with the red men remaining inland and the whites along the coast. The Indian war which lasted until 1842 was a bloody period of Polk's history, but it brought new settlers to these lands.

Soldiers sent in to man these forts became attached to the wooded hills and grassy plains. Many of them either remained at the end of hostilities or returned with their families.

A young Seminole chief, Coacoochee, remained disgruntled over the army's decision to deport all Indians to a reservation out west and in 1855 called a war council of all tribes on the northern shores of Lake Okeechobee. Chief Chipco, leader of a band of about 75, refused to go on the warpath and moved north to an island in Lake Hamilton.

He remained friendly to the whites even at the threat of war with his own people. On several occasions Chipco warned settlers of planned attacks by his

The remains of the old Fort Meade army post as it stood about 60 years ago. It was commanded by Lt. George G. Meade during the Seminole uprisings.

hostile cousins. His loyalty to Polk settlers was rewarded when pioneers in the Socrum area learned that a band of mercenaries from Fort Myers planned to attack Chipco's island village in an effort to collect the $300 bounty for each Indian surrended at Fort Myers or Tampa.

William Collins rode 35 miles through the wilds between Socrum and Lake Hamilton to warn Chipco of the attack. Chipco led his people off the island leaving an empty village for the profiteers who raided the next morning.

Chipco and his people resettled on the shores of Lake Pierce and lived in peace the rest of his life. He died with the respect and friendship of Polk's early settlers. Collins later hacked out a small farm between Lakeland and Auburndale where he lived until about the turn of the century.

The earliest date of the settlement which grew into Fort Meade is shaded by the lack of accurate records; however, it is believed to be about as old as Socrum. A fort is said to have been erected there during the first Seminole wars, but it deteriorated. Most authorities date the original fort in 1849 and reported that it was abandoned in 1854.

It was rebuilt in 1856, during the second uprising, and renamed in honor of General George Gordon Meade, who had served as a lieutenant in the garrison. He later commanded federal troops in the battle of Gettysburg.

During the second hostilities, a small band of Seminoles raided the old Tillis homestead near Fort Meade killing four men before being driven off. Soon thereafter, the army was successful in driving the Seminoles south into the big Cypress. Only a few remained alive; most had been killed or captured in the hammock to hammock chase into the wild swamp.

The close of hostilities brought with it the first big Polk land boom. Recruits brought in to fight the Indians joined the veterans of the earlier war and many remained to make their homes. Others returned home for their families and brought them back to build homesteads in the land they had successfully defended.

Two major settlements were in the area now within the bounds of Polk County at the end of the Indian wars – Fort Meade and Blount. Other settlements were scattered throughout the area, including Fort Arbuckle near Lake Arbuckle, Fort Carroll near Connersville, Fort Clinch near Frostproof, Fort Gibson just west of Lake Gibson and north of Lakeland, Fort Hooker near Homeland, Fort Kissimmee on the Kissimmee River near the county's northern boundry, Fort Nichols south-

Polk's second courthouse was built in 1884 and demolished in 1908 to make way for the present building.

east of Mulberry and Fort Socrum near the Bethel Church on Providence Road.

Most of the forts, like Fort Blount, were settled in 1850. With the passing of the need of the forts they died and their occupants began to scatter, building new homes and clearing out new farms.

The Fort of Blount was not established until 1856; however the settlement was put on firm footing in 1850 when Readding Blount, patriarch of about 20 children and in-laws, circled their wagons about a mile west of present downtown Bartow.

Readding was determined to build his settlement into a cultured community, and to assure it the settlers built a school house before the war cries of the rampaging Seminoles had died out. The school was established in what is now the southern reaches of Bartow. It was a crude log building with a single room.

By 1861 Polk's settlers had rooted themselves firmly to their soil. They felt it was time to bring government closer to home. Finally, only days after the State had seceded from the Union, Polk's pioneers were able to talk the Legislature into creating a new county.

On February 8, 1861 Polk and two upstate counties joined the growing ranks of Florida counties. Polk County was named after President James Knox Polk, who was the first president to hold office after Florida was made a state. An almost forgotten president, Polk also guided the nation's growth from the Atlantic to the Pacific, adding more than 500,000 square miles to the United States.

The county of Polk was carved out of the eastern reaches of Hillsborough County and the southwestern tip of Mosquito, now Brevard County. The new county's boundries did not become stable, however, until 1890. Changes were made in 1871 and 1879. Finally, after a realignment of the Polk-Pasco County line in 1890 the boundries became stable.

Appointed to serve on the first Polk County Commission were Readding Blount, James Hamilton, Isaac Waters and Joseph Mizell. L. W. Cornelius was named first county judge. Later in 1861, an election was held and a wooded site four miles south of Fort Blount was chosen as a county seat.

James Hamilton and Zachariah Seward, Jr., built a hewed log cabin on the site as a court house, but jealousy across the county forced the abandonment of the site. The building served only as a store house for the county until after the Civil War.

On June 17 of the founding year, the County Commission met and divided the county into commission and road districts. With the spirited controversy over the original county seat, an alternate location on Mud Lake was selected. However, with the Civil War upon the fledgling county, no building was built on the site.

With the automobile came good roads.

Nevertheless, it served as the county seat during the war even though a planned city, Jefferson, was approved in an election on October 17, 1861, as a new county seat. Jefferson was to have been built about a mile south of the present court house. The building of a court house in the planned community was to be financed through the sale of lots surrounding the proposed building.

With the county's economy strained by its contributions to the Civil War, the city failed to materialize. The militia continued to muster at the Mud Lake site, which was generally considered the county seat until after the war.

The county was served during the war years by a slate of officers elected in the county's first general election in November of 1861. Those officials were: H. S. Seward, legislator; J. J. Blount, clerk of the Circuit Court; L. W. Cornelius, judge of Probate; H. L. Mitchell, state solicitor; E. T. Kendrick, sheriff and ex-officio tax assessor and collector; F. A. Hendry, Readding Blount, Isaac Waters and Joseph Mizell, county commissioners. William Durrance became acting sheriff in 1862 when Major Blount rallied his company of militiamen and marched off to Gainesville to join in the Seventh Florida Regiment of volunteers.

Tax collecting was slow during the war years. About $1,000 a year was collected in the county, all of which went to pay commissioners and to buy spinning wheels for soldiers' families. No courts were held. James B. Crum was the official county wheel maker who built the spinning wheels for $8 each.

It was one horse-power but either two or four wheels in the 80's.

Circuit judges from Tampa began holding court in the original log building near Homeland at the close of the war. Occasionally they would use the Peas Creek Baptist Church building two miles south of town.

In 1867 the county seat question was finally settled when wealthy cattleman Jacob (Uncle Jake) Summerlin donated 120 acres of Fort Blount property as a county site. The land was divided between the county, two churches, and part was reserved as a school site. In accepting the land, the commission voted to change the name of the county seat from Fort Blount to Bartow in honor of Confederate General Francis S. Bartow.

That same year the county awarded Fort Meade builder John McAuley a $3,800 contract to build the first official court house. It was a frame building, weatherboarded, and sealed, but not painted. U. R. Durrance won a $1,600 contract to build the first jail, a log structure which turned out to be practically worthless because prisoners could crawl out of it at will. The log jail was later burned down by a "law abiding citizen," according to a newspaper account of the fire.

With railroads pushing south toward Polk County, the stream of new settlers began to swell after the end of the war. Rail crews of the South Florida Railway Co. pushed into the county in 1883, linking the county for the first time by a single mode of transportation with northern cities. The county's population began to mushroom. A new court house was needed, and built that year. It had been recommended the year before by the grand jury.

The county's tax roll had swelled above $350,000 by 1883. H. B. Plant began buying up rail lines and pushed a new railroad across Polk from Tampa to Kissimmee linking with the Sanford line. Alfred Parslow and William Van Fleet added a rail line from Bartow junction, now Lake Alfred, to Bartow.

These rail lines gave birth to new cities. Herbert J. Drane, superintendent of a rail crew, built a camp on the shore of Lake Wire. The camp grew into Lakeland through the help of Abraham G. Munn, who in 1884 headed the Lakeland Improvement Company, which surveyed and platted the town site.

Other cities such as Auburndale, Winter Haven, Davenport, Haines City and Lake Alfred sprang up along the rail lines. Lake Wales was planned as a model city in 1911 a year ahead of the railroad. As the rails pushed south, they sparked new life into Frostproof, which is one of Polk's older settlements.

The railroads proved to be the key to the county's economy also, linking the infant citrus and phosphate industries with world markets. Until after 1914 Polk County's roads were much the same as the original wagon trails which were hacked out by soldiers during the Seminole Wars. The discovery of "Bartow Macadam," a type of clay, in 1893 brought marked improvement to city streets in Polk, but the material was found unsuitable for open county roads.

But with the railroad-aided prosperity, the county continued to grow. In 1909 construction was started on the present court house. Mutual Construction Co. of Louisville, Ky. was awarded an $83,890 contract for the job. The east and west wings were added in 1926 amid the Florida land boom.

Development of the automobile added new emphasis to the county's road problems. A Good Roads Association was organized in 1914 and succeeded in sponsoring a $1,500,000 bond issue which resulted in the 1916 letting of contracts to build 217 miles of standard sheet asphalt highways. It was the largest construction transaction of its kind in the south. The project was divided into five sections and linked every major Polk city. Shortly after completion of the cross-county network of asphalt highways, several special road and bridge districts were set up to finance additional roads and bridges.

A total of 19 special districts were established throughout the county. They provided financing for road construction until 1941 when state gasoline tax funds absorbed construction costs. By 1926 these districts had spent more than seven million dollars building upward of 600 miles of paved roads in Polk County. In 1955 the gasoline tax was broadened to include maintenance costs of the road system. At the end of 1960, Polk boasted of 2,025 miles of paved streets, roads and highways. Of this 410 miles were primary; 115 miles secondary; 1,437 miles, county roads; and 563 miles of city streets.

The collapse of the Florida land boom in 1927 stalled the county's growth. The crash of the nation's economy in 1929 further stunned the county. However, Polk crawled back to its feet to launch an unparalleled period of growth. Polk's population soared from 120,000 in 1940 to nearly 200,000 in 1960. Predictions are that the county population will top 250,000 by 1975.

Last year, the total tax roll exceeded one billion dollars with a total non-exempt value of $665,000,000.

Some said those were the 'good ole days' with darkies enjoying giant watermelons, hunting huge alligators, front door marketing and Sunday afternoon buggy ride across Peace River.

MUNICIPALITIES

Out of a wilderness inhabitated primarily by a small number of Indians the early white settlers began in the mid 1800's to carve their homes and futures in communities of what now is Polk County.

By 1851 there were no more than a dozen families in the county, scattered in locales of what now is Medulla, Bartow, Socrum and Fort Meade. These pioneers, a garrison of soldiers, and 100 or more Indians made up the first population of Polk County.

Progress often was slow, but methodically and steadily the white settlers grew in numbers and communities began to emerge, influenced largely by the military's hacking out rough connecting roads, the coming of the railroads, and citrus and phosphate industries, and in later years the Florida "boom".

In many instances some of the original settlements slowly gave way to newer, larger communities. Such communities as Socrum, Sanitaria, Buffalo Ford (built by Gen. Zachary Taylor during the Seminole War years), Sand Gulley, Acton and Kingsford, became overshadowed or absorbed by such municipalities as Lakeland, Bartow, Winter Haven, Auburndale, Mulberry, Haines City, Lake Wales and Lake Alfred.

Historical writings disagree over which was the first community in what now is Polk County, the Socrum settlement near the present Lakeland, or Fort Meade. However, it is taken for granted that Fort Meade was the first important town in the Polk County area.

Fort Meade

Fort Meade was built in December, 1849, on what now is Third Street. Some historians also write that there was a Fort Socrum in 1856 on or near the present site of the Bethel Church north of Lakeland.

The early residents of Polk were nomadic cowhands who herded cattle between Fort Meade and the Caloosahatchee River. Fort Meade also claims title to Fort Clinch, which according to some writings was built in 1850 near what now is Frostproof.

According to records Fort Meade was abandoned in 1854 and during the second Seminole uprising in 1856 it was reopened and named in honor of General George Gordon Meade, who later led federal troops at the battle of Gettysburg, after he led a successful campaign to find the lost site of Fort Clinch.

One of the county's foremost historians, Edward T. Keenan, of Frostproof, believes, however, that the account leading to the naming of Fort Meade is far from accurate.

Some historians do tell us that by 1881 Fort Meade had a population of 150 persons, two dry goods stores, one fancy goods store and a drug store and that the community had been known as Fort Clinch in earlier years. The city in 1961 has a population of 4,014.

The first school at Fort Meade was started in 1884, near the site of the present high school, but was not completed until 1905.

The school was crude without ceiling nor did it have stoves to combat the cold winter of 1891. Pupils held their classes outside, around wood fires, and according to historical notes the first principal, W. S. Thompson, caught cold and later died of pneumonia during the year of the cold winter.

Bartow

Bartow, the Polk County seat, recorded its first settlement about October, 1851, when Readding Blount and his family, 21 persons in all, settled about a mile west of the present court house. The Blount-related families, with about a dozen Negro slaves, remained the backbone of the community for several years and it became known as Fort Blount, a name which succeeded Peas Creek.

Fort Blount was built as a private fortification in downtown Bartow in 1856, but was used by the Florida Volunteers during the Civil War era.

Among the first settlers, who came to Bartow from Columbia County, North Florida, were Blount, Streety Parker and John Davidson.

During the early days of Fort Blount a company of federal troops supplied the defense and an estimated 100 Seminoles were still living in the area which is now Polk County. When the Blount party arrived by wagon train there were a few other settlers scattered through the wilderness.

Looking west on Bartow's Main Street from Wilson Avenue shortly after the turn of the century.

In 1858 a crude log building was built on a site about a mile south of the present court house to become the first school in Fort Blount. That was the year the Seminole uprising ended and the area still was part of Hillsborough County.

Dr. Daniel Waldron was the first school master and his pupils were the approximate of 20 children in Fort Blount. With the second Indian uprising of 1855-58, new soldiers came to the fort and many remained after the war. Others returned home for their families and came back to the area to settle.

Florida had seceded from the Union before Polk became a county on February 8, 1861, but Fort Blount was quick to organize a company of militia under the command of Captain W. B. Varn. It was reorganized and under the command of Captain N. S. Blount marched off to battle on March 8, 1862, to become Company E of the Seventh Florida Regiment.

Fort Blount became Bartow in 1867 when county commissioners voted to accept the offer of Jacob Summerlin to donate 120 acres of land for a county site. Blount had owned the greater part of the town site, but later sold land to Summerlin. Summerlin's land provided for a county seat, two churches and a school.

In accepting the land commissioners voted to name the new county seat after General Francis S. Bartow, the first Confederate officer to fall in the Civil War, during the first battle of the Manassas. The leading citizens met on May 3, 1882 and laid out plans for incorporating the town.

On July 1, 1882, J. H. Humphries was elected mayor and other officers elected included: C. C. Gresham, marshal; W. T. Carpenter, clerk and treasurer; and D. Hughes, D. W. Smith, Streety Parker, F. F. Beville and G. A. Hanson, councilmen.

The year prior to the first election, Summerlin, assisted by the Bartow Masonic Lodge, opened the two-story Summerlin Institute building, for school classes on the ground floor and lodge meetings on the second floor. A new Institute was built in 1887 for $20,000 but it later was merged with the present high school.

During the 1880's prices at the leading Bartow stores included bacon at 11 cents a pound, lard for 15 cents a pound, flour at six cents a pound, sugar at 12 cents a pound, and coffee at 20 cents a pound.

However, the price of a stage ticket to Tampa was $10, if the rider provided his own food for the 14-hour trip.

The city history was painted black one quiet May night with the lynching of Dan and Lonnie Mann. Mrs. John Bishop, who still resides in Bartow has recalled the incident in which her father, Sheriff R. T.

Kilpatrick, was locked in a jail cell and the two brothers removed by a mob of citizens and taken to a nearby oak tree where they were hung. The oak tree stood in the present vicinity of the Civic Center.

According to Mrs. Bishop the Mann boys had gotten into an argument with a bartender and when the town marshal, A. S. Campbell and his deputy, Jack McCormick intervened, the deputy was critically wounded by a shot in the head and the marshal was fatally wounded. A self-appointed posse had captured and jailed the Mann brothers.

Mrs. Daisy Booth, now 85 and residing in Bartow, is believed to be the last of the first generation born to the early Fort Blount settlers. She is a daughter of Streety Parker and was born in his plantation house which was located about where Main Street now crosses the railroad.

Mrs. Booth recalls the coming of the railroad in the late 1800's, the tracks being laid by Italian crews, and the Indian children with whom she played as a child while their parents traded in town.

By 1895 Bartow had a population of 2,016 or more than 20 per cent of Polk's entire population of 10,983. The first telephone also was installed in Bartow that year and it was a homemade instrument. Long distance service between Bartow and Tampa was completed in 1902.

Electric lights came to the county seat on April 18, 1897 when W. H. Towles opened a new power plant, and he also contracted with the city for the pumping of water.

It was about the turn of the century that Bartow became the first city in Polk to have a paved road, the Fort Meade-Bartow Road, topped with a clay found near Bartow and quickly dubbed "Bartow Macadam."

Gen. Evander McIver Law arrived in Bartow in the Spring of 1894 and that year opened the South Florida Military Institute which later was subsidized by the state. However, in 1901 the state purchased the school and it continued to operate until 1905. It and five other state schools were consolidated later to form the University of Florida.

The year before Bartow was incorporated an organization known as the Polk County Immigration Society was formed to promote the fledgling area but it failed and was succeeded in turn by the Bartow Board of Trade, organized in 1887, and the Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

In 1867 John McAuley of Fort Meade won a $3,800 contract to build the first county courthouse in Bartow

Bartow's volunteer fire company poses, bugler and all, in front of the old fire house around 1900.

and during the same period U. R. Durrance built the county's first jail, which cost $1,600 and was considered practically worthless because "prisoners could not be kept in it." A "law abiding" citizen burned it down later, a newspaper account tells and in 1882 the Polk grand jury recommended building of a new jail which was completed in 1887 and considered the most modern structure of its type in the state.

In 1909 the present courthouse was constructed under a bid price of $83,890 and reportedly cost more than $100,000 when furnished. The east and west wings were added during the land boom of the 1920's.

The Bartow citizenry recorded the fact that the first airplane to visit Polk came to Bartow on July 4, 1914, for an exhibition of flying, which was considered a dismal failure, since the pilot failed to get more than 10 feet off the ground.

The city's first hospital was built in 1928 and on December 3, 1960, the Phosphate Museum, depicting pre-historic life in the region was opened.

Bartow changed its council form of government in 1921 in favor of a commission-manager system and Anto Schneider was appointed the inaugural city manager.

A bond issue for construction of the city hall was approved in an election on October 6, 1914, and the building was completed in February of 1915.

Lakeland

Lakeland, the major city in Polk County boasts a population of 41,350 within its city limits plus an additional 16,280 in the suburban area, an approximate two-mile radius outside the municipal limits and "suburbia" continues to expand by leaps and bounds.

The population, industrial expansion of the city and environs contrast to a humble beginning when Lakeland began to emerge as a community in 1883. The city was incorporated on January 1, 1885, when 27 citizens approved the charter drawn up by Judge Epps Tucker and elected a mayor and seven councilmen.

Lakeland derived its name from the liberal number of lakes which dot the land within the city limits and prior to 1883 had a few scattered groups of settlers who had built their homes in small clearings in the surrounding areas.

By the turn of the century Lakeland had experienced nine mayors, some of whom had served for more than one term, but the increase in population was slow in coming.

Among the city's mayors during the last of the 18th century were John W. Trammel, the inaugural official, followed in turn by J. D. Torrence, Eppes Tucker, N. B. Bowyer, H. J. Drane, J. T. Parks, C. A. Boswell, J. P. Thompson, and S. L. A. Clonts.

Dignitaries of the old days were welcomed by these bands from Lakeland and Bartow. They were always the center of attention at any Sunday afternoon concert.

Looking at Kentucky Avenue from the Railroad in Lakeland, in the 1880's.

The city is known today as the "World's Citrus Center" and is strategically located in the center of Florida's rapidly expanding industrial empire. Lakeland's move toward modernization, industrial and economic achievements began shortly after the city was incorporated.

By August 21, 1885, H. B. Plant's South Florida Railroad had reached Lakeland and Abraham G. Munn, the city's founder, donated land for a railroad station and built the station.

By 1886, according to a state paper, Lakeland boasted an important railroad junction depot, an express and telegraph office, six hotels, a weekly newspaper, five steam sawmills, several churches, a grade academy, several mercantile establishments and other varied interests.

On May 26, 1891 the city's first arc lights, five in all were turned on and the city became the third in Florida to have electric lights. In 1901, when the city population stood at approximately 1,180 persons, the city passed its first bond issue of $10,000 to be used for construction of a new school. Today the city school system is designed with a goal in mind of approximately 30 pupils per classroom.

During 1901 the city also saw its first telephones and the Munn-built railroad station was razed by flames. Three years later flames also ravaged 21 businesses and residences, two hotels and three office buildings in the downtown area. Fire swept still another downtown block three months later, destroying several more business buildings and a hotel.

The following year the city still was rebuilding from its fire losses when work began on drilling the first municipal well, which was completed in 1905 and delivered 300 gallons of water a minute. The year 1905 also brought the first movies to the city.

On January 1, 1906 fire again destroyed many downtown stores and during the same month the first lots were sold in Dixieland, the first important subdivision to Lakeland and now part of the city. Munn Park, in the heart of downtown, also was dedicated that year after the city's founder.

Fire again hit the city in 1908, destroying more downtown stores but Lakeland was on the move. Her greatest population increase was recorded during the 1900-1910 period from 1,180 persons to 3,719 or a rise of 215 per cent.

The fever of expansion that had hit Florida also included Lakeland and her population jumped steadily until 1925 when it stood at 17,051. Then in 1945 Lakeland's population was 31,461 but the closing of defense installation at the end of World War II saw many residents moving on and in 1950 the population had dropped to 30,851, marking the first citizenry loss in Lakeland's history.

City sewers were laid in 1912 and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,700 was built on Lake Mirror. The auditorium gave way 45 years later for the city's million dollar civic center.

In 1913 the city launched its first street paving project and all streets in the business district were

paved with bricks. The residential area thoroughfares were asphalted. The city council form of government also was discarded in 1913 in favor of the commission form, which in turn gave way during the post World War I years to the present manager-commission government.

The city also built a new city hall in 1913; a number of commercial buildings were erected, and a $225,000 paving program and a $60,000 sewer program were well under way.

The lakes from which the city derived its name were named by association with people or natural objects. Lake Parker, the largest body of water in the city was named after Streety Parker, who built his cabin near it. Lake Hollingsworth was named for a grove-owning family in the area. Lake Bonny originally was Lake Boney, named after David Boney, an Indian fighter who lived near it. Lake Hunter also was named for an Indian fighter. Lake Mirror first was known as "deep Lake," and then "Bushy Lake" for the clarity of the reflection of far shores in her waters. Lake Morton was named after John P. Morton of Louisville, Ky., who followed Abraham Munn to Lakeland. Lake Bonnet was so named because of water lilies (bonnets) which covered the waters. Lake Beulah was named for Miss Beulah Wentz, referred to in records only as "an attractive visitor." Lake Wire originally was "Israel's Dish" but later was renamed when the telegraph line from Ocala to Punta Rassa came through Lakeland and was routed around the lake.

The city's first police force, now a modern, departmentalized force of more than 80 members, was organized in 1914, succeeding a long line of "marshals" appointed to keep the peace.

The old Episcopal Church in Acton, an English settlement near Lakeland in 1886.

The city's fire fighting up to the turn of the century was done primarily by volunteers, forming bucket brigades from the closest body of water to the fire, but the department was organized soon after the first city-owned well began providing water in 1905.

Today the completely equipped department operates out of three stations, located at strategic points for the entire city, and is prepared for any eventuality.

Lakeland's first city hospital was opened in 1916, thanks to the generosity of a Canadian who had made Lakeland her home. The hospital was named Morrell Memorial Hospital for Mrs. Jane Morrell who had bequeathed the property for the facility. It was expanded in 1926 and in 1957. Construction work began on the present multi-million dollar Lakeland General Hospital which opened its doors in late 1959.

Faith also was strong during Lakeland's pioneer days and following the first All Saints' Episcopal Church, founded in the area before Lakeland became an entity, churches of all denominations now dot the city. Diversified industries and businesses now also are sprinkled generously throughout the city and its suburbs.

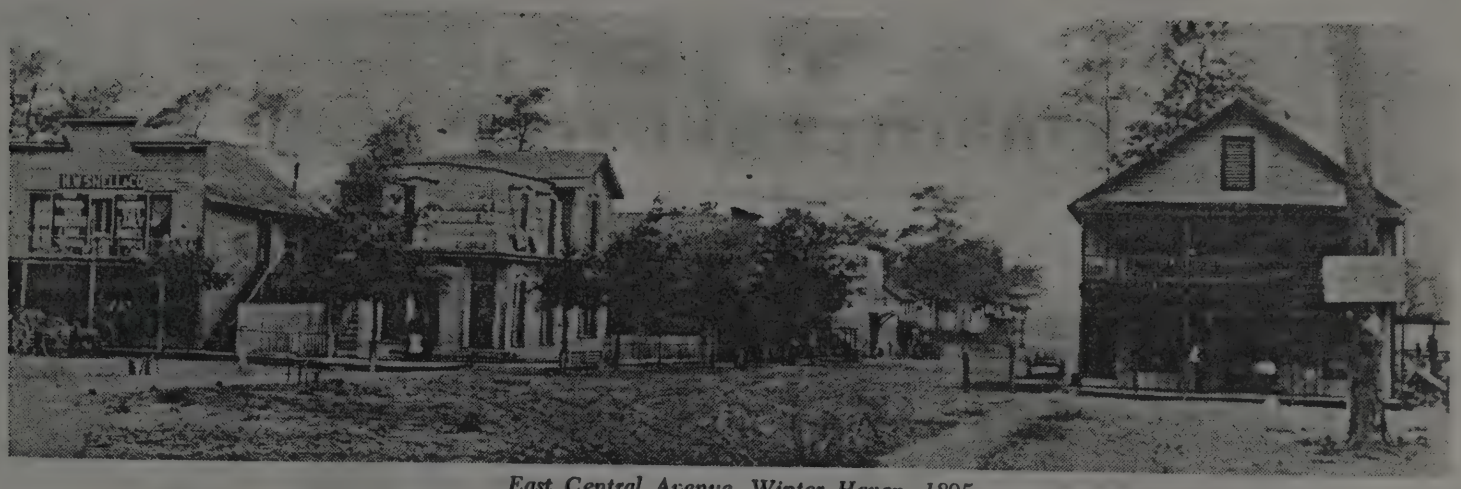
Florida Southern College, a modern, up-to-date Methodist college, was established in Lakeland in 1922 following a tragic history of its predecessor educational institutions at other Florida locations.

The educational institution, which ultimately came to Lakeland, was realized through dedication, devotion and toil of pioneer Florida Methodists and countless hands. It has survived fire, storm, epidemic, war and depression since its founding in 1853 as the East Florida Seminary at Micanopy.

The college has an enrollment of students from all over America and the rest of the globe and has become internationally famous for its Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, boasting the largest single collection of Wright buildings in one place in America.

Just north of the city limits is the Carpenter's Home, built by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for retired members and dedicated in 1928.

Lakeland also houses the Florida Citrus Commission in a half-million-dollar building and is headquarters for the Florida Citrus Mutual, whose members produce 90 per cent of the state's citrus crop. The city also boasts the Second District Court of Appeal, one of three such appellate courts in the state, which soon will be housed in a new, approximately $300,000 building on



East Central Avenue, Winter Haven, 1895.

East Memorial Boulevard. Several other state-federal headquarters are situated in or around Lakeland.

In addition to its many nature-provided and man improvised recreational facilities, Lakeland also is the permanent spring training site for the Detroit Tigers and home of the Santa Claus Bowl, for football tilts between teams of the National Boys' Football Foundation.

Winter Haven

Winter Haven, Imperial Polk's second largest city with a population of 16,277 persons, owes its founding and name primarily to the mild Florida climate conducive to citrus growing.

The first white settlers began to arrive on the scene in Winter Haven as early as 1883 and the city streets were laid out in 1885. However, it was not until 1911 that the village became incorporated.

Winter Haven's first settlers, afforded an abundant supply of water, good soil, and what was believed to be a frost-proof climate, began clearing stumps and setting out the first citrus groves.

J. Eugene Parker was the city's first citrus packer, operating as a commission man doing business from a tent. Parker would hire men to pack the fruit at the groves and then buy it for shipment north.

The city was originally known as Harris' Corner because of the F. A. K. Harris store and post office at the intersection of what is now Fifth Street and Central Avenue, N.W. The railroad, which helped the city to grow, came through in 1884 and with the erection of a depot it became necessary to choose a permanent name for the community, which then emerged as Winter Haven.

At the outset only a spur of the railroad came through the city, connecting with the main line at "Bartow Junction," now Lake Alfred. The railroad, built by Henry B. Plant was known as the Plant System and later became the Atlantic Coast Line.

In 1885 the city's first church, the First Baptist Church was constructed and three years later the First United Presbyterian Church was built.

The first school, a tiny one-room frame structure, was erected in 1886 replacing make-shift classrooms. The first class encompassed seven students under the tutelage of Miss Betty Walker.

Dr. F. W. Inman, who came to the city in 1887, is credited with having done much to encourage growth of the area by going north each year and persuading young families to journey to Winter Haven and settle there. He built what was to be known as the Florence Villa Hotel.

By 1893 tomatoes had become another important crop in the Winter Haven area and the community had its first canning factory. That year also saw E. R. Wharton as a justice of the peace.

The "big freeze" hit in 1895 almost wiping out citrus growers but by then the tomato production had reached 123,000 bushels and the city was becoming known as the tomato shipping center of the world.

Henry Snell, who was operating a store in the city by 1890, had become the town's first banker, since he happened to have the only available iron safe. However, the store as well as the offices of Blount and Whitledge, the Bartow real estate firm that had laid out the city streets, were razed by fire in 1890.

A disastrous fire again hit Snell in 1903, burning down his new store, the post office and the old Parker store. Only one store was saved, the Henry Tandy store still occupied by Tandy Plumbing, and the First Baptist Church was saved.

The first newspaper, the Lake Region Gazette, began printing in 1896 but folded a year later.

At the turn of the century the population was approximately 400. That period also saw the replacement of the old one-room school house with two multi-room buildings and the organization of the Winter Haven Social Club.

The Winter Haven Brass Band, the city's first musical organization, was formed in 1905 and about a year later the Lakeview Hotel was built.

Tandy built an electric light plant in April, 1908, and in November of the same year a telephone system with 20 subscribers was hooked up. A year later Snell put his bank into formal operation and two years later a bank building went up.

The year 1910 saw a board of trade organized, and William Boyd constructed an ice plant and waterworks. By that year there were 15 autos in the city and the first motion picture show opened in the Cason Building.

The first city council was organized in 1911 with Willis E. Smith, a native of West Salem, Ill., becoming the first mayor. John A. Schneider was first council president, and councilmen on the inaugural governing body included W. W. Nann, F. P. Howard, and F. W. Oren. L. L. Barnes was city clerk and tax assessor and E. H. Waggoner was town marshal.

I. M. Johnson was named chief when the city assumed control of the Volunteer Fire Department on September 12, 1911, and firemen were paid the fabulous salary of $18 a month.

The first city hall, combined with a fire station and jail, was built on a lot purchased for $500 and completed in the summer of 1911. Council began passing speed limit ordinances in 1911 and the following year began advertising the city by buying five pages of ads in the Polk County Directory for $75.

In 1913 A. C. Nydeger was hired to make a map of the city and the first census was taken. A year later, on December 28, 1914, tragedy struck the Alvey Home on Lake Albert when five members of the family perished in a fire.

In 1917 the Dixie Highway was opened and in 1922 H. E. Cornell of Winter Haven, made a transcontinental airplane flight with Lakeland's George Haldeman, marking the longest such flight ever made by civilians.

The Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce came into being about 1921 and worked unceasingly toward the economic and industrial growth of the community which was interrupted when the "Florida boom" ended abruptly in 1926.

During the boom period large buildings such as the Haven Hotel, the American National Bank, Phillips Professional Building, postal building, and many others were springing up. A chamber of commerce conceived multi-use building was left uncompleted when the boom ended, not to be finished until many years later, after it was sold and remodeled.

The Haven Hotel opened its doors in 1924 and the first Winter Haven Orange Festival, which later became the annual Florida Citrus Exposition, was held. During the 1920's era the city had a population of 3,000 and was considered a city affording full utilities, paved streets and access to arterial highways.

Twenty-five years ago the now world-famous Cypress Gardens which had done much toward making the name Winter Haven synonymous with water-skiing and tourism, was founded by Dick Pope, Sr. and his wife Julie.

Davenport

The first white settlers began arriving about 1883 at Davenport, a city of approximately 1,209 population at the northeast tip of Polk County.

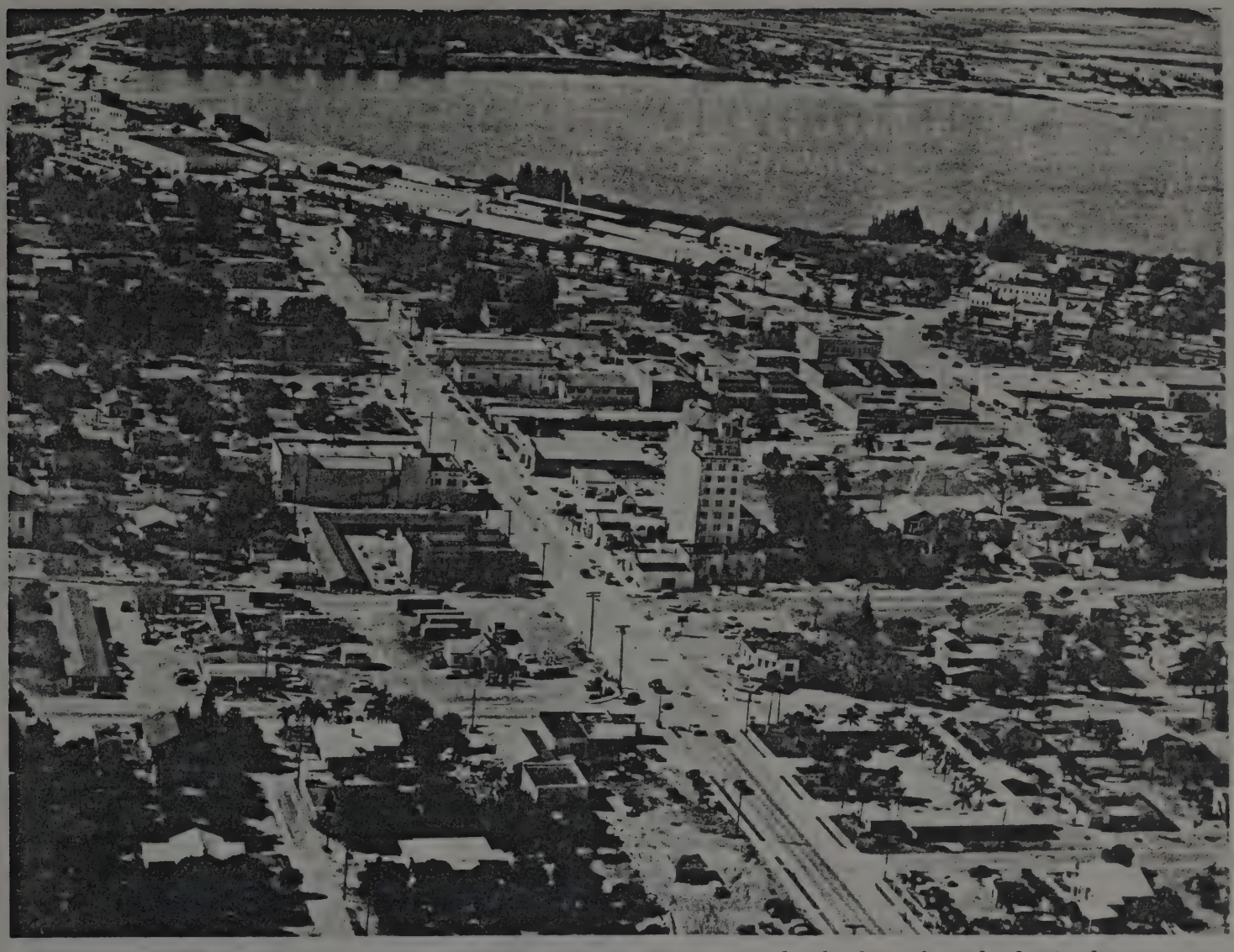
For whom the city was named is obscure, but two principal men are mentioned in connection with the name. One was a conductor on the old South Railroad and the other was Col. William Davenport. Col. Davenport was a commander at Fort Davenport, which was located north of the city during the Seminole Wars.

According to historical reports Fort Davenport was situated just north of the Polk County line in the vicinity of Loughman, and was one of 19 fortifications in the county during the 1837-1856 period. The fort was one of the line of posts on the route from Tampa Bay to Fort Mellon.

What is believed to have been the first school in the northeast Polk area was built on the old Davenport-Loughman Road about 1880. In about 1917 a new, two-room frame school was erected in Davenport on the present school site.

The first primary industry in the Davenport area centered around "green garden truck" raising and planting of seedling orange groves.

During the earlier years of the community industry included a cypress mill and turpentine still and in 1919 general development of the area as groveland and resi-



Haines City, the heart of Northeast Polk County, serving Davenport, Lake Alfred, Dundee and Lake Hamilton.

dential community got under way. Citrus and citrus-related industries now add greatly to the economic stability of the community.

Haines City

Haines City came into existence with the advent of the railroad in 1883, with South Florida Railway which paved the way for development of the city and her neighbors to the north and south of Davenport and Dundee.

The city name originally was "Clay Cut," presumably because of a cut made through a clay bank for the railroad lines. Later, when the railroad declined to make the city a regular stopping point for trains the settlers changed the name of the city to Haines City, after Col. Henry Haines, a railroad official. Psychology worked, resulting in a station being built and regular stops being made.

By the year 1885 the city had a depot, sawmill, three general stores and a drug store. During the last more than three-score years the city has grown to a population of 9,135 persons and an economy based primarily around cattle and citrus, and residential development.

The first telephone installation in Polk County was at Haines City, made in the 1890's by Dr. A. B. Young and A. B. Stroud, and by 1917 the community had 82 phones and was serving as the link for start of telephone service in the Ridge Region of northeast Polk.

Construction of schools in the area began about 1880 and by 1885 the city had a two-story frame building used for both school and church. The inaugural school had one teacher and about 25 pupils. The building was razed about 1910 and a new school built on the site. Later, after additions and alterations the building became the present city hall, and the Haines City area now boasts 10 schools.

Dundee

Dundee, Haines City's neighbor to the south was the first new town platted on the Haines City-Sebring branch of the South Florida Railways.

The city which now has a population of 1,544 grew out of a development fathered in 1911 by the Highlands Development Co., which was bringing prospective buyers to the community later to be named after Dundee, Scotland.

The community was incorporated on February 9, 1925 with G. F. Cletson becoming the first mayor, Fred Shepard, the first town council chairman and John Olson, the inaugural clerk.

Among the first industries in the community were the Mixon Sawmill Co., Rayburn Turpentine Distillery and Glen St. Mary Nursery, and one of the first settlers established a grocery store where residents gathered on Saturday night to consume a new treat, ice cream.

The early population consisted of approximately 40 persons and horse racing on Main Street was the most popular form of entertainment along with setting fire to pine straw that had been used to fill ruts in the sand roads.

The town's first boarding house was a large tent, located where the Dundee Community House now stands, and the community's first one-room school, which also served as a church on Sunday, erected in 1912, stood on the present site of the city hall. The first teacher, Mrs. L. B. Anderson, Sr., had an enrollment of 20 pupils.

The pine forests have long since vanished from the scene and in their stead stand citrus groves, residential developments and a large packing plant.

The town saw its first paved roads in 1914 but the community's first telephone communications had preceded this event by about a dozen years.

Though the coming of the railroads played an important role in opening up the county for development, one of the cities began as a result of a train wreck in Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1877.

Alfred Parslow, injured in the wreck, was paid $10,000 in settlement of claims and he joined William Van Fleet, using the money to obtain a charter and begin surveying a route for a new railroad through Central Florida.

The line originally was called the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroad and ran from Kissimmee to Tampa. A spur ran from a tiny settlement called Bartow Junction to Bartow in 1883.

A large lake at Bartow Junction was named Lake Alfred, after Parslow, and later Bartow Junction was renamed after the lake.

Lake Alfred

Wahneta, Bartow Junction, Chubb, Fargo and then Lake Alfred – pioneers may have had difficulty arriving at a permanent name for this city, with a present population of 2,191, situated on Lake Alfred but they had no difficulty in charting its course of development and following it unerringly.

There was little there in 1892 except a small railroad station but in 1910 a group of capitalists from North Dakota purchased a large tract of land and formed the Fruitlands Co. to develop it. The company was a Fargo, N. D. enterprise and the city was incorporated in 1913 as Fargo.

Ensuing difficulty with postal service, confusing the name with Largo, prompted the citizenry to change the name to Chubb which also proved unsatisfactory thus resulted in renaming of the community as Bartow Junction. Persons trying to find the community with this name seemed to find themselves in Bartow, 15 miles away, however.

Eventually the name became Lake Alfred, after the main body of water in the community which had been named for Alfred Parslow, the man who joined William Van Fleet in surveying for railroad lines through Central Florida.

Prior to the arrival of The Fruitlands Co., several businesses had been established and a sawmill, boarding house, church, commissary and turpentine still were in operation. A school was there, but education was left primarily to ministers' wives or teachers willing to come for a short period of time. In 1913 the first full-term teacher was secured from North Dakota.

The prior principal mode of transportation in the community, horses and mules, was obsolete in 1910 when four men arrived by automobile.

Provisions for the city's first electric service were made on January 5, 1914, when the city of Fargo, as it was known then, granted a 30-year franchise for electric service to the Winter Haven Water, Ice and Light Co. which had been established in Winter Haven about 1911.

The community's first effort to build "modern" roads was launched between 1915 to 1917 when an agreement was reached with the county to match all funds con-

tributed by Lake Alfred in the form of free labor, mule teams and money. A clay road then was built to Haines City and then to Auburndale and finally to Winter Haven.

In 1919 The Fruitlands Co. donated a site of land for the soon-to-be Citrus Experiment Station which today plays an important role in citrus culture for the entire state.

The city government centered around the commissioners-mayor form but in 1947 provisions were made for the employment of a city manager to join the governing body.

Auburndale

In 1883 a post office was located at the W. L. Patterson store on Lake Ariana and the community around the store was named Sanitaria. The following year the railroad refused to build a station at Sanitaria but did build one a few miles west, naming the new site Auburndale.

The origin of the city's name is not officially known but legend has it as suggested by a native of Auburndale, Mass., the wife of the publisher of the Boston Herald. The name of her home town was taken from a line in Oliver Goldsmith's "Deserted Village," which read "Sweet Auburn! Loveliest village on the plains."

The first major industry for the area was farming but extensive stands of tall pines soon brought lumber companies into the area.

Auburndale had begun to grow by 1887 and had several homes, three general stores, a real estate office, a drug store and a hotel. By 1895 the city had the southernmost library and free reading room in the United States, adding culture to the city, and the first school was in session. L. C. Bowyer was the first teacher and had 40 pupils.

The Auburndale Board of Trade was organized shortly after the turn of the century and work began toward realizing the city's industrial potential.

In 1913 a fire which began in the H. P. Walker building swept through the business district destroying practically every building except the First State Bank, opened a year before.

The loss was placed at $50,000 and total insurance amounted to only $3,000. The business district was rebuilt, however, on a more substantial scale and today the city of close to 6,000 boasts an economic factor of diversified industries plus modern and complete city utilities and advantages.

Lake Wales

Lake Wales, famed most as the starting point for a visit to such tourist attractions as Bok Tower, The Great Masterpiece and the Passion Play, materialized as an early envisionment of a site for a future beautiful city. This forecast of B. F. Bullard was cemented when the railroad arrived and the early settlers built looking toward increasing needs and an increasing population in the future.

The land around the present city was surveyed in 1879 by Sidney Irving Wailes, a civil engineer, who changed the names of the two principal lakes Watts Lake and Sulphur Lake to Lake Wailes and Crystal Lake.

Primary inhabitants of the area before the 1911 influx of the white man were friendly Indians of the Creek Nation whose village was on Lake Pierce about one-half mile from the Great Masterpiece. Their chief was Tallahassee, who came to Central Florida about 1860 at the close of the Indian Wars, and around Cat Fish Lake (Lake Pierce) the Indians farmed about 20 acres of land.

Among the early settlers were Mrs. Rose Wetmore, still residing in Lake Wales, who with her husband and Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Stewart came to the area in 1911. The two couples shared the first house to be built in the city.

In 1912 only three finished buildings, a store, hotel and small railroad station, were standing and the only written communication with the outside world was mail brought in on horseback three times a week from Bartow. The only other white woman in town when Mrs. Wetmore and Mrs. Stewart arrived was the wife of storekeeper Tom Parker.

Prior to establishment of the city, a group of Georgia residents had purchased 5,000 acres of land nearby to use for a turpentine camp and C. L. Johnson had constructed a turpentine still, commissary store, blacksmith shop, a shed for assembling of wooden barrels, and a church. The men lived in Bartow and operated the camp with the help of Negro and Indian labor, traveling back and forth to the camp site daily.

The first religious service in the city was held on January 19, 1913, and during that same year the first school was opened, with an enrollment of 11 pupils. The medical needs of the community paved the way for chartering of the Lake Wales Hospital Association on March 18, 1929 and the opening a few months later of the city's first hospital.

Lake Wales, the shopping center for Frostproof, Waverly, Hill Crest Heights, Babson Park and Highland Hills.

By 1915, two men had installed the first telephone in Lake Wales and by 1917 a little, one-position board near the center of town served 179 magneto phones, only six of them in Lake Wales and the rest in Haines City and Frostproof as part of the Highland Telephone Company's operation.

Frostproof

An area in Polk County which became noted, particularly after freezes in North Florida, for its adaptability to citrus culture, was so named Frostproof because of what the name implies.

Rugged nomadic cowhands who in the early 1850's wintered their herds in the sand hills of the ridge section are believed by some to have named what now is Frostproof as Fort Clinch, an embattlement also claimed by Fort Meade.

Fort Clinch, according to records, was built on January 13, 1850, in a cove on Lake Clinch about one-half mile west of the present Frostproof city limits. The fort was one of a chain of garrisons across central Florida. Gen. Winfield Scott opened "good wagon roads," the first in Polk County, to link these forts with Tampa during the Seminole Wars of 1835-42 and 1855-58.

The city opened its first school in 1901 on Hickory Street and the first school year consisted of one term of two months duration. There were 10 pupils taught by Alice Simmons, the first teacher. By 1917 telephone service had grown in Polk to include Haines City and Frostproof, through the then Highland Telephone Co.

Frostproof, among other Polk communities now primarily concerned with tourism, the citrus industry and residential developments, has a present population of 2,664.

Mulberry

Phosphate played an important role in development of all of Polk County but particularly to Mulberry, named for the Mulberry Tree which in the late 18th century had become the center point of the community. Legend has it that at least one Negro swung from the limbs of that old tree which is still standing.

Mulberry joined the Polk family of communities when it was incorporated in February 1901, but history traces the first settlers in the area back to the late 1840's.

When the phosphate industry began moving back away from the water beds the community became more stabilized. But, the industry also had brought the railroads and by 1904 the relatively new city boasted a population of about 2,000.

Citizens in the community began working toward meeting the needs of the future prior to the turn of the century. In 1898 the first school with a class of three

Mulberry's namesake – the mulberry tree.

was built on the corner of Canal and Church streets, one block north of the Mulberry Tree on a site now occupied by the city hall.

The first high school, the third oldest in Polk, was built in 1907, but the greatest developments in the community school system were launched after World War II and aided largely by the phosphate industry.

The city post office was established in 1900, transferred from Kingsford where it had been closed three years earlier. The first bank, the Bank of Mulberry, was founded in 1907.

The city's first electricity also was made possible that year when the Town Council granted a 20-year franchise to Ose O. Hubbard for operation of an electrical system. The company grew into Mulberry Electric Co. which was purchased by Tampa Electric Co. in April, 1926. Around 1919 the Tampa firm began supplying electricity to the phosphate industry around Mulberry.

The city, with a population now of 2,922, also received its first telephone service around the turn of the century and in 1907 held the third exchange to be constructed in Polk by the Peninsular Telephone Co., forerunner to the General Telephone Co. of Florida. In 1907 the Mulberry exchange had 24 subscribers.

Polk City

Polk City was planned in 1922 by Isaac Van Horn, a prominent Florida boom-time developer who dreamed of a model, residential city free of the bustling metropolis atmosphere.

Though the well-planned, modernly laid out city flourished during the late 20's and early 30's, Van Horn's dreams collapsed with the depression when the city's largest economic factor, a sawmill moved. The population began to drift away, dropping from nearly 600 in 1930 to 203 in 1960.

The city was left bankrupt, unable to meet thousands of dollars worth of capital improvement bonds left outstanding for the model city developments. As a last ditch effort the council traded all municipal property, retaining only the city streets, for the outstanding bonds.

Today, residents of the area have resumed dreams of the city becoming a booming residential city. Though the size of the city proper had been carved in almost half the population within the former bounds now numbers 700 and an almost equal number live in the once-again forested hills surrounding the communty.

Suburba

Among some of the other Imperial Polk communities noted more primarily for citrus industry and "suburbia" living, are Eagle Lake, one of the earlier settlements near Winter Haven and with a population of 1,364 and Highlands Park and Hill Crest Heights, near Babson Park.

Lake Hamilton, a community of 931 population, earned a niche in Polk's history, not as a white settlement but as the home of the Seminole Chief Chipco and his tribe of about 75 braves.

Homeland, just north of Fort Meade, is one of the older communities in Polk County. The settlement was first known as Bethel which was the name of a Methodist church that was located there. Jack McCormick, an Irish peddler, suggested the community's present name, noting that "it impresses one who views it as the 'home land' of contented people."

Lake Hamilton was named for Lake Hamilton, one of the largest lakes in the state with a shore line of about 35 miles. The community came into being about 1913.

Babson Park, formerly known as Crooked Lake, primarily is a residential development which began about 1912. Babson Park also is site of Webber College, founded and endowed in 1927 by Mrs. Roger W. Babson.

Highland City is another primarily residential community formerly known as Haskell.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Polk County's first settlers were rough and untutored but they knew the value of religion and education, and they brought both into the wilderness with them.

The facilities were crude, the discipline harsh, but the messages and the intent were straight to the heart.

The first schools were classes of children of one or two families which pooled their funds to hire a teacher. Lessons were said in the home of one of the families, and the Bible was drawn on heavily as a textbook.

Later, as more families moved into the area, rude log cabins were built to serve as schools. None had desks, not even for the teacher, and few had any source of heat during the winter.

At times, when the winter winds whipped drizzling rain through the gaping cracks in the walls, the class would leave the building and huddle around a roaring fire of logs near the school house, still chanting their lessons.

The terms were short in the early days, rarely longer than four months, because the children were needed for chores in their pioneer homes.

By 1881, there were 242 pupils in Polk's 11 organized schools. That was the year in which a teachers' examination was held at Bartow, under the direction of Prof. D. C. Kantz, who at the time was the principal – and the entire faculty – of Summerlin Institute.

The schools that year were operated on a budget of $2,200, raised by a three-mill tax levy which produced $1,400 and by a $1.50 tuition fee assessed against each pupil.

Some of the teachers that year, in addition to Prof. Kantz, at Summerlin Institute which also opened that year, were M. L. Menges at Medulla, F. M. Wilson at Bethel, Smith Coachman at Foxtown, Miss Mattie Blount at Bowlegs, and Eugene Hunt at Eillis' schoolhouse.

By the close of 1882, the number of schools in Polk County had grown to 36 and the school fund was almost out of debt. The assessment for school purposes that year came to $2,054.11.

As the county's population and wealth grew, the schools became more numerous and better, but they still basically were one-room country schoolhouses, with a single teacher instructing all classes.

The First Baptist Church in Bartow, built in 1882-3.

In some areas these classes were quite large. In 1888, for example, the Homeland School, taught by Miss Swearengen, had 75 pupils, and was said to be the biggest class in Polk County at the time.

Three schools of particular importance to Polk County were: Summerlin Institute, named for Jacob Summerlin, who donated land for the county seat with the provision that one-third of the land be used for educational purposes and one-third for religious purposes; The South Florida Military Academy, established at Bartow in 1884 by Gen. E. M. Law; and Florida Southern College, which opened in Lakeland in 1921.

Students of the early schools had few of the advantages considered so necessary to education today, but they proved the value of their instructions. They became the leaders of the county, the citizens whose efforts made possible Polk County's growth.

As with schooling, religion was a part of the life of the first settlers, who, without church or preacher, conducted devout family services in their crude cabins.

Circuit riders and itinerant ministers, who endured the hardships of the wilderness to bring spiritual instruction to the pioneers, visited the settlements in the

county from time to time long before the first church was organized here.

A camp meeting, drawing residents from many miles, served not only religious purposes, but often furnished the only opportunity for social activities of the settlers.

The date the first church was built in Polk County is uncertain, but early writings indicate that there was a church at Socrum before 1850, a rough log cabin said to have been built by Henry M. Frier, Daniel Sloan and other settlers. Another early church is the Peas Creek Baptist near Bartow.

While as late as 1880 there were few church buildings in Polk County, there were church organizations, meeting in store-rooms, in schoolhouses and in private homes.

An Episcopal Church built at Acton in the 1880's later was moved to Lakeland, after the failure of the English settlement, and is today All Saints' Episcopal Church of Lakeland.

In 1882 Methodists and Baptists at Bartow began planning to build churches. A Presbyterian church was organized there in the same year, but did not put up a building until some years later.

In Lakeland, both the Methodists and the Presbyterians were organized by 1885 and soon after began planning for buildings of their own, after meeting in borrowed rooms.

The First Baptist Church of Lakeland also came into being about the same time, and the Cumberland Presbyterian followed in 1888.

The picture was the same throughout the rest of the county.

First a group of settlers of the same faith would get together to organize a church. If they could find a preacher who would accept a call, they held regular services wherever they could – in a barn, in a storeroom, in the nearest schoolhouse or in the open, under the trees.

If they could find no preacher immediately, they made arrangements with a circuit rider to hold services on a certain Sunday of each month.

Later as the congregation grew they would begin thinking about a building in which they could worship. Still later committees would be appointed, funds would be raised, materials gathered, and the men of the congregation would go to work building with their own hands the church in which they would worship, in which their children would be married and in which their grandchildren would be baptized.

These were also the churches in which last rites for many of the settlers would be held, and many of Polk's earliest citizens were buried near where the early churches stood.

The first settlers contributed far more than the agricultural industry on which the county's economy was based for many years. They also gave Polk County a rich heritage of faith and appreciation of the value of education – and the churches and schools in which both still thrive today.

Modern Schools and Churches.

CITRUS AND CATTLE

The parallel empires of citrus and cattle have given Imperial Polk County a firm and substantial base for its growth and economy, and each can trace its beginning to the earliest days of America. Both citrus and cattle appeared in Florida early in the 16th century. In the four centuries which have passed since then, both have become symbols of Central Florida's wealth.

Citrus

The first citrus tree in Polk County probably grew in the gently rolling lands of the northwestern part of the county, springing up in a foreign land from a seed dropped carelessly by a helmeted Conquistador trooping behind Hernando De Soto.

De Soto, landing his expedition at Tampa Bay in 1539, struck eastward through the wilderness and following a looping course, passed through Polk County, possibly across the spot where Lakeland is today. His men carried with them the small bright Spanish oranges introduced to Southern Europe centuries earlier.

The orange seeds dropped along the line of march, which was to end in tragedy and the death of De Soto beside the Mississippi River three years later, fell in suitable soil and found perfect climate waiting when the first young shoots sprouted.

When the first golden fruit appeared the Indians roaming through Central Florida found and tasted them and declared them a gift from the great spirits.

As seedlings, the trees were not all the same. The fruit differed from tree to tree and the Indians soon enriched their vocabulary with three words to describe the fruit. The sweet orange they called Yallaha; the sour fruit was Yallahaachena; and the bitter oranges were Yallahaasempa.

In the usual pattern of Spanish exploration, the priests followed the Conquistadores, establishing tiny missions where they could and using what means they knew to attract the Indians to the new religion they had brought from the Old World.

There is some evidence that at least two such missions were established in Polk County and maintained for at least a few years. At each, the priests found that one of the best attractions they could produce was a grove of oranges.

Citrus trees blanket Polk County's rolling hills making this the citrus capital of the world.

IMPERIAL POLK COUNTY

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Presents

CENTURY IN THE SUN

A SPECTACULAR

with Original Lyrics and Music

Written and Produced by

JOHN A. McGEE

Directed by

R. McDONALD BROWN

AL R. McFADYEN, *Associate Producer*

Featuring the voices of

THE COLLEGIATE SINGERS

Under the direction of Dr. Albert P. Stewart

PRESENTED BY THE POLK COUNTY
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

ALDINE COMBEE, *Chairman Board of County Commissioners*

C. C. STREET, *General Chairman of the Polk County Centennial Celebration*

Program 1

CENTURY IN THE SUN

A musical spectacle based on an exciting chapter in American History — the founding and the development of Polk County — "Heartland of Florida".

OVERTURE

Prologue

Florida during the period of discovery and colonization. 1513 to 1821 . . . A pageant of the five flags which have flown over Florida.

Song: **Florida, My Florida.**

Act One

Scene 1: *Place:* Beside the water in the "Heartland of Florida".
Time: Sometime before the American Revolution.
Cast: Indians of Florida.
Song: **Great Spirit Who Gave Us This Bountiful Land.**

Scene 2: *Place:* A wilderness road in central Florida.
Time: The year 1850.
Cast: Settlers from the Carolinas and from Georgia.
Song: **I'm On My Way To Floriday.**

Scene 3: *Place:* Along "Peas Creek" (now called Peace River).
Time: In the early 1850's.
Cast: A settler and his wife. Later, other settlers.
Song: **Go'n' t' Make th' Land Bloom.**

Scene 4: A film sequence — "Perils Of the Florida Frontier".

Scene 5: *Place:* On the open range.
Time: In the 1850's.
Cast: A "Florida Cracker".
Song: **I'm A Cracker, That's What They Call Me.**

Scene 6: A film sequence: "King of the Crackers".

Scene 7: *Place:* A clearing in the woods.
Time: Late afternoon of a day in 1885.
Cast: A group of the settlers.
Music: Traditional square dance air.

Scene 8: *Place:* The yard of a settler's homestead.
Time: A Sunday afternoon in the middle 1850's.
Cast: A whole neighborhood of settlers, men, women and children.
Song: **Traditional Hymn.**

Scene 9: A beautiful cypress grove. The same Sunday afternoon.
Cast: A young man and his "intended".
Song: **Let's Carve Our Initials Together.**

Scene 10: *Place:* the town of Ft. Meade. A day in 1856.
Cast: Townspeople and settlers from the surrounding area, particularly, Mr. Willoughby Tillis, his wife and two young sons. Also, a detachment of troops from the Fort.
Song: **Oh, the Army's On th' Watch!**

Scene 11: The Willoughby Tillis homestead, three miles west of Ft. Meade. Early morning, a few days later.
Cast: Mrs. Tillis, her two sons, and a group of Seminole Indians. Later, a detail of seven men from Ft. Meade, commanded by Lieut. Lot Carlton.

Scene 12: The Military Compound at Ft. Meade. Three days later.
Cast: Soldiers and citizens at military funeral.

Scene 13: Street in Ft. Meade. Immediately after.
Cast: Large group of settlers.
Song: **Glory Be!**

Scene 14: A place in Polk County. February 8, 1861.
Cast: Nearly everyone in the County at that time.
Song: **It's A Great Day In Polk County, Florida.**

End of Act I

(There will be a fifteen minute intermission)

Act Two

Prologue: A place in Polk County. March 8, 1862.
Cast: A bugler of the Confederate Army. A bugler of the Union Army. The Polk County Militia, commanded by Capt. S. N. Blount.

Scene 1: A cultivated field. A day in the spring of 1862.
Cast: Wife of a soldier. Later, other women, children and old men.

Scene 2: A Bartow Street. Not long after the end of the Civil War.
Cast: Citizens, returning soldiers, new arrivals.
Song: **She's a-Comin'!**

Scene 3: Inside Hooker's Hall in Bartow. An evening in January, 1884.
Cast: Masqueraders at fancy dress ball. Also, Miss Lois Fuller of New York City, and her brother, Frank Fuller, of Auburndale.
Song: **Oh, I've Lost My Heart To Bartow.**

Scene 4: *Place:* On the banks of Peas Creek. A day in 1886.
Cast: Two fishermen.
Song: **Fishin' On Peas Creek.**

Scene 5: *Place:* The same.
Cast: John C. Jones and Capt. W. R. McKee, of Orlando.

Scene 6: A film sequence about Florida's fourth largest industry; Phosphate.

Scene 7: An orange grove during picking season. The late 1880's.
Cast: A buyer of fruit. Growers and pickers.
Song: **Oh, It's Oranges, Lemons and Grapefruit I'm Buyin'.**

Scene 8: A film sequence about Florida's great Citrus Industry.

Scene 9: Middle of an orange grove. A cold night in 1894.
Cast: A man, his wife, and various hands.

Scene 10: Another part of the grove. A few days later.
Cast: Same man and wife. Also a neighbor.

Scene 11: Street in a Polk County town. Early 1890's.
Cast: A huge throng of citizens, visitors, merrymakers.
Song: **See th' Polk County Bandwagon Roll!**

Scene 12: Auburndale Railway Station. January day in 1900.
Cast: Winter visitors, railway officials and townsfolk.
Song: **Isn't It Something!**

Scene 13: A Polk County street. A day in 1910.
Cast: The owner of a new "gasoline buggy". Townspeople.
Song: **Gasoline Buggy.**

Scene 14: Courthouse Square in Bartow. A day in 1916.
Cast: Throng of citizens.

Scene 15: A film sequence: Polk County from 1916 to 1961.

Scene 16: County of Attractions!
Songs: **Sing Me A Cypress Gardens Serenade!**
Oh Singing Tower.

Scene 17: Before a blossoming orange grove. An evening in 1961.
Cast: A young man and his girl friend.
Song: **When It's Orange Blossom Time Again In Lakeland.**

Scene 18: A place in Winter Haven. Any day of the year.
Cast: Citizens and visitors.
Song: **Summer Spends th' Winter in Winter Haven, Florida.**

Scene 19: "Heartland of Florida".
Cast: Polk County Centennial Queen and her court, representing the 19 towns and cities of the County.
Song: **Give Me th' Hills And th' Lakes in the Heartland of Florida.**

Scene 20: Finale. The entire Company.

The fruit undoubtedly was a far cry from the luscious oranges for which Polk County is famous today. The oranges probably were much smaller, the juice tart and astringent and the peel coarse and tough.

To the Indians, as well as to the Spanish, however, it was excellent, and the missions with the best supply of good oranges undoubtedly boasted the most Indian visitors.

There is no evidence that the Indians ever attempted to plant the orange seeds in groves, but as they moved across the county, hunting and traveling from village to village, they ate oranges from the missions and tossed the seeds to the ground.

Those which fell in soil best suited to oranges flourished. Others did not. The trees which grew and produced fruit, helped white settlers in later years, pick the best spots to set out groves.

When the white settlers began arriving the troops sent in to hold the Indians at bay, the men with wandering feet looking for new wildernesses to explore, the new farmers following the soldiers to stake out their homesteads in the rich new land found Polk County dotted with orange trees.

The big freeze of 1895 destroyed trees and crops alike.

Oddly enough, the early settlers found as great a use for the sour oranges as for the sweet. The sweet they ate as fruit, as the Indians did, but the sour oranges became prized items in their simple larders.

In a land short in spices and so far from normal trade routes that transportation made spices expensive, the settlers found that the juice of the sour orange added flavor to their foods.

Roasts of deer and bear were marinated in the sour juice and the juice was sprinkled liberally on the fish and turkey which made up a great portion of the diet of the first settlers.

Early in the 19th century far-sighted Polk Countians were aware of the potential market for Florida citrus, but knew that they must wait for better and faster means of transportation before they could establish their industry.

The date the first citrus grove was set out in Polk County is not known, nor is it known when the first fruit was shipped from Polk. By the middle of the century, however, some fruit was being shipped to England. These were days of sailing ships and non-refrigeration, but the early growers, working with the sailors and shippers, had learned how the fruit could be transported to England without spoiling.

After the oranges were picked and hauled to Tampa by cart—a journey sometimes requiring several days—they were spread out on the docks and left unshaded from the sun. The heat evaporated the oils and moisture from the peel, sealing the pores and preventing the fruit from spoiling.

Several weeks later, if the winds had been favorable for the ship, the oranges arrived in England, edible if no longer very attractive.

By the 1880's, citrus was a growing industry in Polk County. Some of the early growers, as listed in the old tax records and other documents, were J. H. Durrance, G. W. Hendry, E. P. Skipper, Benjamin Whidden, S. W. Cason, F. A. Whitehead, P. H. Dzialynski, C. L. Mitchell, Jasper Summerlin, James Hamilton, M. D. L. Mayo, Thomas Parker, B. F. Moody, C. L. Wilson, F. W. Swearingen, J. W. Futch, J. A. Hart, W. B. Campbell, J. J. Sikes, C. Irving Page, S. L. Keen, and William Collins.

Ox-wagons hauled Polk's citrus in the early days.

George Summerlin, who had planted a grove in Bartow reported a sale of 25,000 oranges – in those days growers counted their holdings by the number of trees rather than the number of acres, and sold their fruit by the individual orange rather than by the box – in 1882 for $15 a 1,000.

The price on the northern market at this time was $4 to $5.50 a box, but limited transportation facilities made it difficult to ship fruit. Some growers were hauling their fruit to Tampa where it was loaded on ships to be carried to the north, while others hauled their fruit to Wildwood, then the nearest rail point.

About 1885 to 1886 the first packing house machinery began arriving in Polk County as growers began modernizing their operations. There was probably quite a bit of talk at the time that such "automation" might put some citrus people out of work.

When the railroad streached into Polk County, providing rapid shipment of fruit to the northern states, a citrus boom swept Central Florida and optimistic investors began clearing land and planting groves.

On December 12, 1894, nature took a hand and turned the boom into disaster. An icy wave swept out of the north, sending temperatures in Polk County below the 20-degree mark.

Some fruit was damaged and a few trees hurt, but the growers took stock of their losses and assured themselves that it was not as bad as it could have been.

The cold lingered a few days then dissipated, to be followed by a month of warm, wet, spring-like weather. Frozen fruit and damaged leaves fell from the trees and tender new buds began popping from the bare branches.

The second half of the one-two punch came on February 7, when a second freeze slammed without warning across Florida. Temperatures in Polk County fell to 18 degrees. Oranges, frozen to their centers burst on the trees and the bark of many trees was split as the freezing sap expanded.

In some groves more than 90 per cent of the trees was killed. The wealthy growers of January were paupers in February. Many predicted that the citrus industry would never recover from the blow, that fear of such a disaster would prevent investors from backing groves.

Some growers did give up their holdings and entered other endeavors. The others, however, rolled up their sleeves, grubbed out the dead trees and began resetting their groves.

Their faith in Polk County as the potential citrus center of the world has been many times justified since that time.

From the beginning, the growers of Polk County knew that in organization there was strength. The first citrus organization on record was one formed at a meeting at Medulla in 1881. George Hamilton was the first chairman of the group and C. F. Smith was secretary.

In 1909, the Florida Citrus Exchange was organized after a Florida delegation which included J. W. Sample, W. W. Clark, Mrs. A. L. Lyle, Charles Walker, Dr. F. W. Inman, H. G. Nickerson and G. H. Thompson from Polk County, toured California to study marketing groups there.

Esther Angle, Haines City, promotes first display processed citrus products 1915 Florida state fair, Tampa.

A quarter of a century ago the Florida Citrus Commission was formally organized, and still later, Florida Citrus Mutual, both of which operate from headquarters in Lakeland.

Cattle

Cattle were also brought into Florida by the Spanish, but not by De Soto. History gives Ponce De Leon that honor, crediting him with bringing a few head of cattle from Cuba into Florida in 1520. De Soto also brought cattle with him on the 1539 expedition, but this was 19 years after Ponce De Leon.

The Indians, at first frightened by the strange horned beasts, soon found that they were an Indian's answer to hard times. Fairly well domesticated, they could live off the land and required little care. They produced milk, meat and leather.

They were little like the fat cattle now grazing on Polk's rich pastures. Coarse-haired, gaunt and bony, they were the scrub cattle whose chief value was an indestructible stamina which enabled them to survive flood, heat and insects in a land in which improved breeds of cattle could live only for a few months at most.

The first whites in Polk County to own cattle were not ranchers, but were settlers who kept a few head of cattle for their own uses, not for sale. Later, with a brisk market for cattle developing in Cuba, far-sighted settlers saw a future in ranching and began building their herds.

While there were some sales in the north, most of the Florida cattle were sold to Cuba, shipped on sailing vessels from Punta Rassa. As the War Between the States neared, it was evident to the ranchers that additional amounts of beef could be marketed and the era of the cattle baron began.

Probably the biggest rancher in Florida in 1861 was Jake Summerlin, the first white man born in Florida after the territory was acquired from Spain. Summerlin's ranges stretched from Bartow along the Peace River Valley south to the Caloosahatchee River. During the War Between the States he sold an estimated 25,000 cattle to the Confederacy, for script which was worthless, and during the 47 years of his career as a rancher he sold an estimated 160,000 cows to Cuba. Summerlin may have been the biggest, but he was not the only rancher in Polk County.

In 1862, according to tax statements, these ranchers, with the number of cattle they owned, were listed as follows: John Lanier, 2,700 head; N. R. Raulerson, 2,515; William H. Holden, 1,800; W. H. Willingham, 1,550; Berry and Platt, 1,015; J. M. Pierce, 830; John L. Skipper, 730; Albert J. Hendry, 400; George Washington Hendry, 190.

Missing from the list, for some unexplained reason, is the Hamilton herd, which apparently was the first ranch in Polk County. It is reported that the Hamilton brand, the letter "H", is the oldest brand in Polk County. It is now owned by D. B. Kibler of Lakeland, whose family bought out the Hamilton holdings.

There were many attempts to bring improved breeds of cattle into Florida in the early days but all failed. The improved cattle could not live in Florida.

Shortly after the turn of the century – some sources say it was in 1916 – E. F. Lester introduced a herd of huge hump-backed cattle from India into the Kissimmee River Valley, reasoning that the climate and insects of Florida certainly were no worse than those of India, where for centuries these cattle had thrived.

The introduction of the Brahman cattle was a turning point for the Florida cattle industry. The Brahmans ignored the heat, rains, frosts, droughts and insects and grew fat on the tall wild grass of the pastures.

Soon ranchers began to cross the Brahman cattle with other breeds to produce better cattle which still could live in Florida.

The greatest impetus toward improving the quality of Florida cattle came, however, in the 1920s when an intensive state-wide campaign, marked though it was with violence and gunfire in the so-called dip-vat wars, brought the Florida ticks under control.

Ranchers also initiated drainage projects to improve their lands, and began planting imported grasses to provide better forage for their improved breeds.

Soon the day of the scrub cow had passed. Now the fenced pastures were filled with Brahman, Charbray and Charolais. Herefords were seen and Shorthorns and Angus.

There were still battles to be won, the latest and one of the most important of which was the eradication of the screwworm, but the worst was passed.

After four centuries, Polk County was coming into its own as a cattle-producing area.

Across the county today are the vast squares on which the county's two great industries grow and flourish – the rich green glint of citrus, stretching row and row across the rolling ridges, and the broad expanses of pasture, dotted with some of the world's finest cattle.

PHOSPHATE

Polk County's phosphate industry began as a boisterous, rugged pick and shovel operation in the 1880's.

Since that time, it has developed into a multi-million dollar business which now produces one-third of the world's total production of phosphate.

Polk has led the nation's production of this essential and widely-used mineral since 1894.

There isn't full agreement on how phosphate was discovered in Polk County. Captain J. Francis Le Baron, of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, was credited by some historians with the accidental discovery of phosphate deposits in the bed of Peace River in 1881.

Other historians say that John Jones and Captain W. R. McKee discovered phosphate, bone and similar material while on a hunting trip between Fort Meade and Charlotte Harbor.

A thorough inspection of the river bed showed what seemed to be an inexhaustible deposit of phosphate rock. These phosphate beds make up what is known as the Bone Valley Formation, a shield-shaped area some 50 miles long and 40 miles wide, centered in Polk County.

When the find was made public the rush was on. Mining companies sprang up overnight. The river became a beehive of activity. As many as 81 companies were carrying on mining operations during the first few years.

Land values skyrocketed from $1.50 per acre to $200 per acre in the county's first era of land speculation.

By 1888 the first shipments began moving down river, mostly from the Arcadia area. In the first year, 3,000 tons of phosphate rock were shipped downriver to Punta Gorda, to be loaded aboard ships for distant markets.

Railroads expanded into the area almost immediately, however, and took over as principal carrier of the phosphate.

Early phosphate mining operations – dredging in Peace River.

Early mining methods consisted of floating hydraulic dredges which mined the bottom land and edges of the stream, pumping the "spoil" back into the river. This mining method produced "river-pebble phosphate."

It was not long before the miners switched from mining the river bed to mining land-locked deposits. Workers shoveled the ore into wheelbarrows and hauled it to the processing plant.

Here the ore was scattered over a vibrating screen to sift out the sand and small particles. The pebbles of phosphate remaining on the screen were then loaded into bags for shipment.

Later, mule-drawn scrapers were employed to remove the "over-burden" and expose the phosphate deposits in layers from five to 12 feet deep.

Mining methods have continued to improve and have grown from shovels and mule-drawn scrapers to giant 1,500-ton draglines with buckets that have a capacity of 30 cubic yards and can remove nearly 2,000 cubic yards of earth an hour.

In the early screening processes, two-thirds of the phosphate in the ore was lost because no one knew how to extract it. Today's modern methods recover about three-fourths of the phosphate. Through intensive research, the phosphate companies are seeking practical ways of getting the rest.

After being pumped from mine to plant, the mixture of ore and water is first washed, then screened, to recover the phosphate "pebbles" larger than a thirty-second (1/32) of an inch.

This portion of the recovered phosphate is ready for shipment after drying.

The mixture remaining after the pebbles are recovered is made up of sand, clay and phosphate of fine size. In the old days, this was pumped away as useless waste.

Today, this residue from screening undergoes various treatments which recover a large part of the rich phosphate grains in the muddy mixture.

This process, which revolutionized the industry when introduced in 1928, consisted of skimming the phosphate from the top of the mixture of clay, sand and phosphate which remains after the initial screening process. This is made possible through the use of chemical reagents which coat the phosphate particles, causing them to rise to the top.

From the original single-step flotation process has evolved a second step which removes even more of the fine sand that remains in the phosphate.

Some waste dumps established before the flotation process was adopted were re-worked after 1928. At one mine where 1,000,000 tons of pebble phosphate had been originally recovered, the flotation process produced an additional 1,250,000 tons from the wastes.

Although 71 per cent of the phosphate produced in Polk County is used in the United States, the phosphate industry depends heavily upon its export business (25 per cent) to keep operating at an efficiently high and profitable level. Japan, one of the industry's best customers, buys more than a million tons of phosphate rock per year, mainly for fertilizer.

United States agriculture, including Florida's booming citrus industry, accounts for the bulk of phosphate consumed in this country. Four per cent is used in industry.

Some valuable by-products of phosphate operations which were formerly discarded are now being marketed. Among these are three flourine chemicals which are used to help manufacture aluminum, to flouridate drinking water systems, to make ceramic tile and the glass-like finish on enamelware.

In processing plants where phosphate rock is subjected to extremely high heat to produce elemental phosphorus, two principal by-products are iron phosphide and slag. The iron phosphide is useful in making steel while the slag is generally used as a road fill or as an aggregate in concrete blocks.

Some uranium is now being recovered and production could be substantially expanded if the market warranted.

Aside from its principal use as a fertilizer, phosphorous compounds are used in literally hundreds of ways: match heads are topped with phosphorous to make them light; toothpaste and plastic toothbrushes contain phosphate or one of its compounds or by-products; a technical grade phosphate is used in making shaving cream and the new dip-clean detergents. Other phosphate chemicals give tartness to soft drinks and hardness to cast iron.

This vital mineral also plays a part in the preserving of food, coloring of cloth, even in the treatment of certain illnesses.

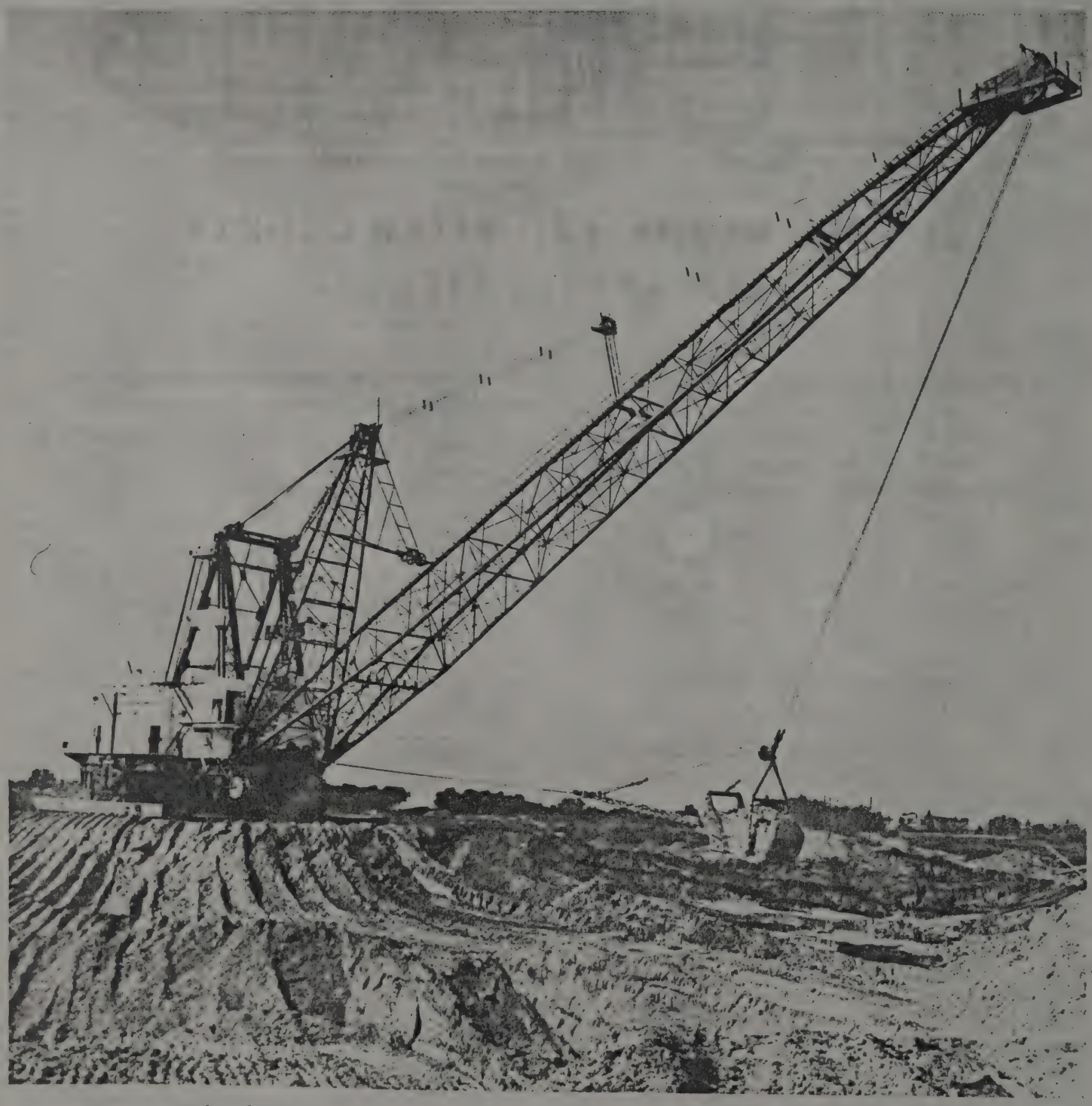
Actually, phosphate plays an intimate part in the lives of everyone and helps us to live longer and better.

Most of the "phosphate towns" that grew up around the big plants have since been abandoned as the mining companies exhausted phosphate deposits in their immediate area.

Brewster, a community more than 50 years old, is the last of several such towns to be abandoned, with all the houses to be sold and moved before the end of this year. Many former residents have bought their homes from the company at Brewster and have moved them to Bradley, Ft. Meade, Medulla, Mulberry and Bartow.

However, the vast beds of phosphate are far from disappearing. The Florida Geological Survey has said there are 800,000,000 tons of phosphate in Bone Valley. In addition, there are one billion tons that can be mined by new mining processes.

The phosphate story is far from ending.



Modern draglines scoop out 34 yards of overburden in one bite exposing the rich ore beneath.

TOURISM

A growing stream of tourist flows into Polk County every year as local chambers of commerce champion the varied attractions available in the county and pleased vacationers return each year for Polk's pleasant winters and sports-filled summers.

Attracting people to Florida dates back 200 years, when in 1762 the British promoted the first land boom in Florida by widely advertising the climatic superiorities of this newest possession (the Britsh had captured Havana, Cuba from Spain and traded the capital city for the Florida Territory).

Large grants were offered to veterans of British military service and bounties were offered for the production of naval stores, sugar, indigo and rice.

About a hundred years later, a county committee started advertising the advantages of settling in Polk County. A Bartow newspaper published stories of how to get to Polk County by wagon and railroad to Cedar Keys thence by ship to Tampa and then on to Bartow by wagon.

Another suggested route was by ship from Jacksonville to Sanford, by rail to Orlando and overland to Polk County.

Today, with Polk's year 'round population exceeding 200,000, over 15,000 visitors can be accommodated in the hotels and motels of the county's eighteen communities.

Polk's 72.2° F. average temperature is conducive to many types of recreation; outboard racing, swimming, water skiing and excellent fishing in any of the county's hundreds of lakes and the Peace river.

Shuffleboard courts and tennis courts abound, and more than a dozen golf courses dot the Polk County terrain.

Wild game is available in season, including quail, wild turkeys, doves and ducks.

Spring is the time for big league baseball at Lakeland with the Detroit Tigers training there.

Cypress Gardens

World famous Cypress Gardens near Winter Haven is a major attraction. Here, visitors and Floridians alike enjoy the fascinating water shows and the beautiful flower gardens where some type of flower is always in bloom.

The Passion Play

Each winter season the Black Hills Passion Play is held near Lake Wales in a huge ampitheater.

The Great Masterpiece

Just a short distance from the amphitheater is the Great Masterpiece, a huge tile mosaic of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," in a setting of century-old citrus trees and the "Tree of Ages," a cypress tree believed to be 4,000 years old.

The Singing Tower

The Singing Tower, or Bok Tower, is also nearby, where quiet meditation can be had in the peaceful surroundings. Recitals are heard from the tower's huge carillon which contains 71 bells varying in size from 11 pounds to 11 tons.

Phosphate Valley Exposition

Near Bartow, the Peace River Park offers the newly-opened Phosphate Valley Exposition which contains one of the most complete fossil and prehistoric Florida Exhibits in the world.

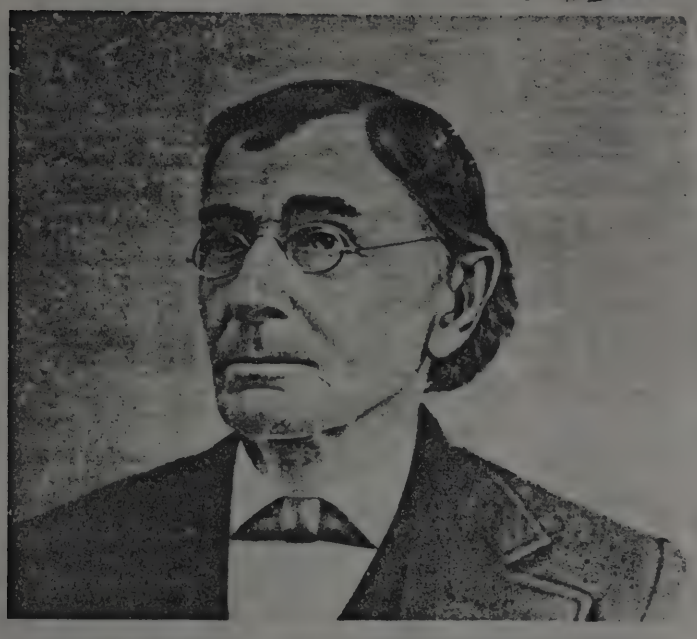
Many tourists are conducted on guided or informal tours of two of Polk's giant industries: citrus and phosphate. They observe how millions of oranges are packed for shipment or prepared for canning in numerous citrus processing plants throughout the county. They watch as a mammoth dragline dips 30 yards of phosphate from the earth in a single scoop.

Admirers of the architecture of the late Frank Lloyd Wright can see his work in the buildings on the campus of Florida Southern College, in Lakeland. Here, the great architect built a uniquely beautiful group of buildings overlooking Lake Hollingsworth.

It's no wonder that tourists return to Polk County each year and that more come with them, for Imperial Polk County is certainly a tropical wonderland.

Attractions for the thousands of tourists streaming into Polk County are many and varied.

PIONEERS

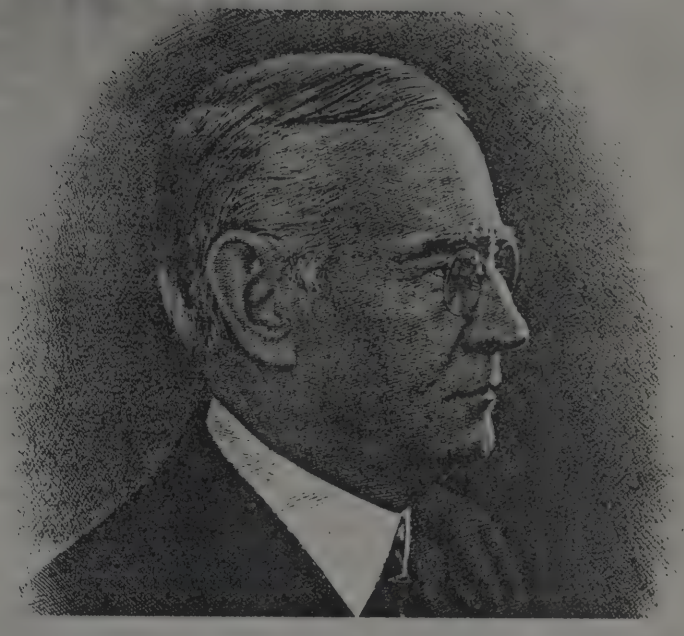


Jacob Summerlin, who donated the site for the present courthouse, was believed to have been the first American born in the state of Florida after it was acquired from Spain. Summerlin traded several Negro slaves for a herd of cattle in the early 1800's and later became known as the "king of crackers." He was the largest cattleman in the state for many years, and during the War Between the States he furnished beef for Confederate troops. Summerlin also teamed up with Captain Donald McKay of Tampa and smuggled supplies through the Yankee blockade from Cuba.

L. A. Morgan, an early settler in Fort Meade, built his house and planted an orange grove on the site of the old fort. The fort, which was rebuilt for the second and last Seminole War, had begun decaying and was demolished in 1890.

Lakeland's first medical doctor was Dr. James Lafayette Derieux, who settled with his family in what is now northwest Lakeland in 1883. Dr. Derieux joined with Rev. P. R. McCrary and E. R. Trammel in choosing the name "Lakeland" for the small community. The name became official when most of the villagers approved their choice. The naming reportedly occurred on December 15, 1883 in a general store.

Winter Haven's first school teacher was Miss Bessie Walker. The school was built in 1886, and Miss Walker taught seven students. In 1909 an annex was added to her school. S. W. Bryson won the contract for construction of the annex.

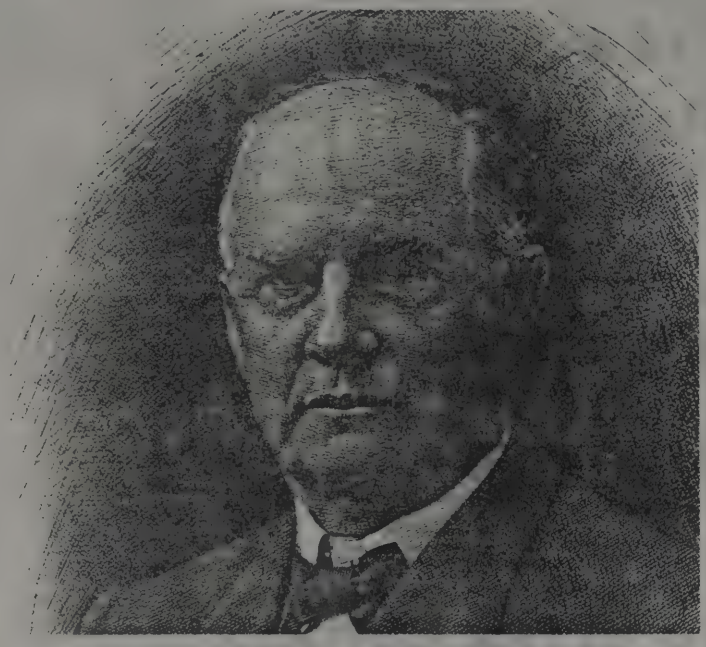


Herbert Jackson Drane came to Lakeland in 1883 as foreman of a crew building a railroad and remained to become one of Polk County's outstanding citizens and political figures.

He first opened a drug store, then served as editor of the Lakeland Cracker before establishing an insurance agency. During his business career he built a number of commercial buildings and developed large citrus holdings.

After serving as clerk and treasurer of Lakeland, he entered politics and was elected mayor, a post he held for several terms, and later was elected to the county commission. On the state level, he served first as representative and later as president of the State Senate. On the national level, he served a number of terms as Congressman from this district.

When he returned to Lakeland after his marriage to Mary Wright in Franklin, Ky., he was called Lakeland's first bridegroom. The couple's children included Ossian W., who was the first child born in Lakeland; Mabel, who married W. S. Moore; and Josephine, the wife of J. W. Passmore.



J. Wesley Bryant came to Polk County from Columbia County with his parents in 1857 and three years later, at the age of 15, enlisted in the Confederate Army.

After the war he returned, to make his home at Orangedale, north of Lakeland, where he entered the cattle business and soon earned a reputation as one of the shrewdest cattlemen in Florida.

He also served several terms in the Florida legislature and was the first senator from Polk County after the county became a senatorial district. He was regarded as one of the county's leading financiers and for many years before his death in 1926 he served as vice president and chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Lakeland.

He was married three times: to Miriam Hancock, Julia A. Holly and Ruth Robinson. His children included Manuel A., Texas, La Fayett, Georgia, Alice, Julia May and Katherine Elva.

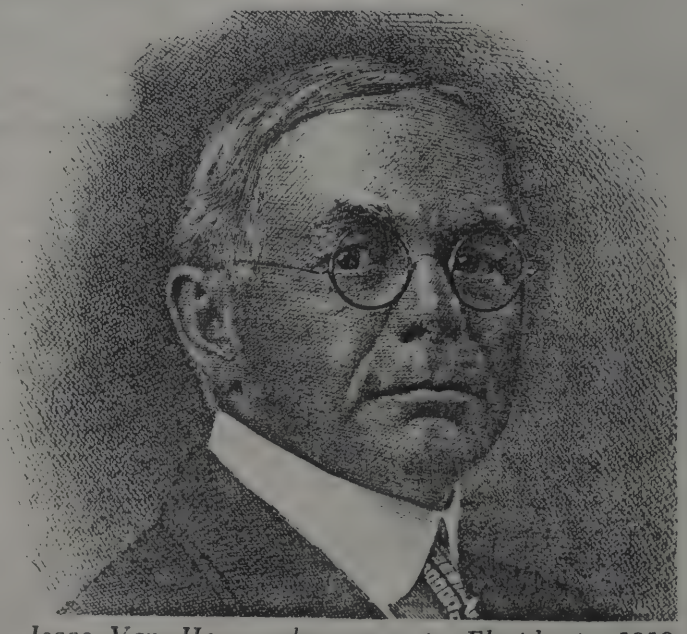
Willoughby Tillis, while living near Fort Meade in 1856, was probably the last white man to be attacked by Seminoles during the second Seminole War. Tillis held the attackers at bay with rifle fire until a small detachment from the fort came to his aid. In the brief skirmish Lt. Carlton, William Parker and Lott Whidden, who were in the detachment, were killed. Indians a week earlier had killed George Howell and Robert Prine near the Tillis home.

M. R. Anderson, a native of Russell, Ill., came to Polk County in 1884, settling first at Bartow, later moving to Lake Wales, where his father, Frank Anderson, served as city clerk.

After completing his education in pharmacy, Anderson operated drug stores in Bartow and Lake Wales, as well as in Daytona and Jacksonville. His drug store was the first permanent drug store in Lake Wales.

Anderson, who served four terms as mayor of Lake Wales, was the father of M. Ross Anderson, Jr., Louis Anderson and Doman Ross.

Dr. F. W. Inman in 1887 contracted to A. B. Harrington, Winter Haven's first builder, for the construction of a mansion which later became the famous Florence Villa Hotel. At the time Dr. Inman's hotel was known throughout the state and was believed to have been among the most noted hostelries in Florida. In 1893, he added to the building giving the hotel accommodations for between 75 and 100 guests.

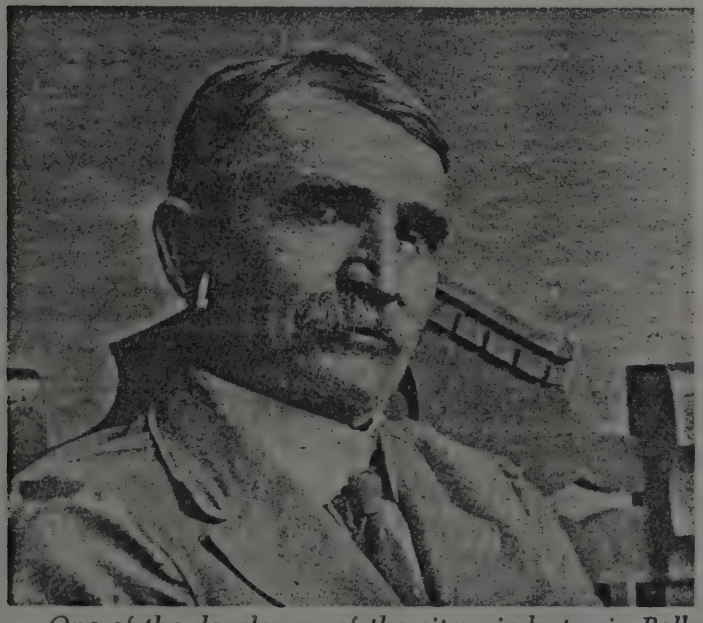


Isaac Van Horn, who came to Florida in 1918, founded Polk City and is often referred to as the "Daddy of Northwest Polk County." He picked the site for Polk City in 1922, had it surveyed and laid out in a model city. It was said to have been the best designed city of its day, however, the Florida land boom "burst" before his dream city became an established reality.

Marion Buxton was for a while the most looked for man around Lake Wales in the town's infancy. Buxton was a pony express rider, who delivered mail from Bartow to Lake Wales Postmaster T. J. Parker. The job only lasted a few months for Buxton, until daily mail service was established by rail.

Jesse Keen, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, and two children, set up housekeeping near the present site of Lakeland in 1866. The house was built in a week and was a dirt-floored log cabin 12 feet long and 10 feet wide. After completing the home for his family, he hitched his horse to look over his new land.

He found that he was sharing the present Lakeland area with John Futch, who had a cabin near Winston; the Powers family three miles to the north; the Hamiltons five miles to the southwest; Elbert Combee east of Lake Parker; and the Hollingsworths on the shore of a lake now with his name.



One of the developers of the citrus industry in Polk County, T. A. Currie moved to Bartow in 1886, to plant the first grove. Several years later he moved to Winter Haven to establish a truck farm, but later devoted his time to citrus.

He served six years as a member of the Polk County Commission, and it was he who first moved that the present county courthouse be constructed. He was a staunch pillar of the Democratic Party, serving 20 years as a member of the county executive committee.

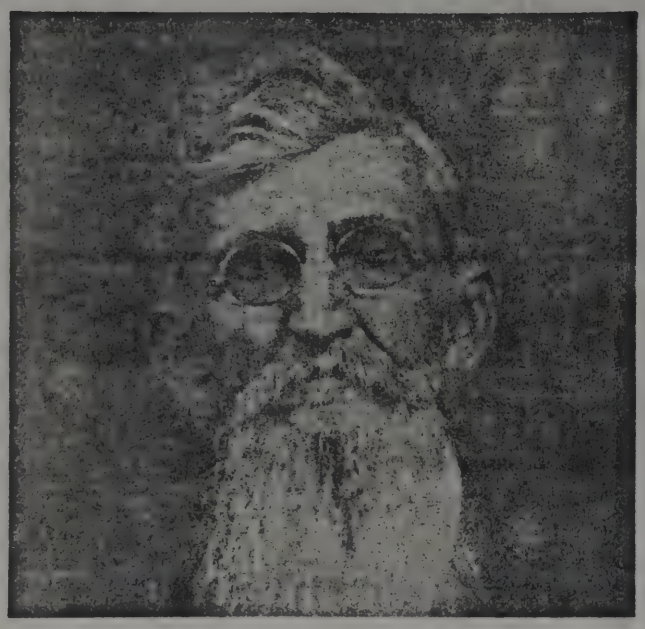
His children included Roberta, Jane, Hugh and Marguerite.

Readding Blount with his family and a few Negro slaves founded Fort Blount in October of 1851. He became one of the first county commissioners when Polk was made a county in 1861. Among his family were Riley S. Blount with his wife and four children; Owen R. Blount with his wife and two children; Nathan S. Blount, who was unmarried; Streety Parker, a son-in-law, with his wife and two children; and John Davidson with his wife and one child.

A. B. Harrington, Winter Haven's first building contractor, was born in Rhode Island in 1853 and moved to Polk County in 1885, settling first at Auburndale, then moving to Winter Haven two years later.

He had entered the building field in New England, and followed this career in Polk County, building the first part of the Florence Villa Hotel – when it was the 10-room home of Dr. Inman – in 1889, and adding 20 more rooms to the structure before he built the final addition of 43 more rooms in 1903. He is also credited with building Winter Haven's first school.

An organizer and a director of the Snell National Bank, he was also an organizer of the Florence Villa Citrus Growers Association and served for four years as a county commissioner.



Benjamin Franklin Holland, father of Florida's senior Senator, Spessard L. Holland, came to Bartow in 1881, after a career as a school teacher and service in the War Between the States which ended when he was wounded at the Battle of Powder Creek.

After his arrival in Bartow he worked in a general store operated by Captain David Hughes. Later he formed Polk County's first abstract company, which was later incorporated as the Polk County Abstract Co. He was also interested in citrus and general farming and was an early organizer in the Polk County branch of the Florida Citrus Exchange.

He served for 20 years as chairman of the school board and was a county commissioner and county treasurer.

In addition to Spessard, his children included Frank and Virginia.

Emory Bryant's family moved to Polk County in 1869, when Emory was only four years old. He received an education in the county schools and was a farmer until 1904, when he moved to Lakeland and entered the real estate business. He also operated a popular billiard parlor.

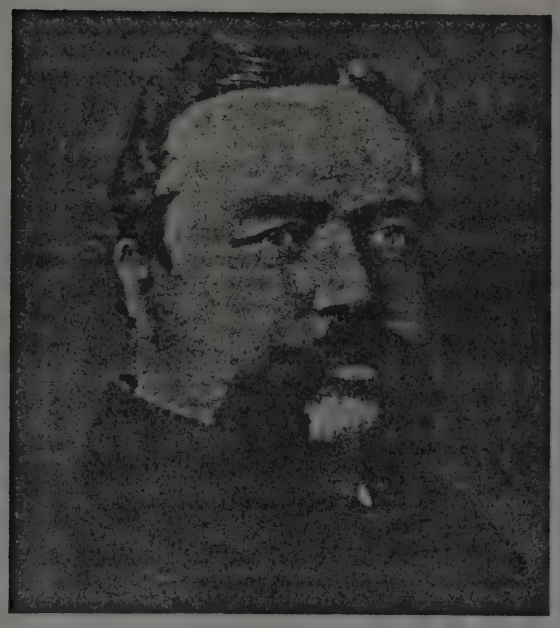
Two of Lakeland's first subdivisions in the early days were developed by Bryant.

He was married in 1898 to Nellie Blocker of Plant City and the couple had six children: Thomas W. Bryant, prominent Lakeland attorney; Emory Bryant; Olin G. Bryant; Charles Edward Bryant; Cecil Bernice Bryant, and Vivian Gray Bryant.

William Frank Anderson left the drug business in Ohio in 1885 to move to Bartow, where he managed a drug store for many years, before moving to Lake Wales to become a citrusman.

He also entered politics in Lake Wales, serving as a Peace Justice for the district and as city clerk, treasurer and collector. He was the father of four children, Milam R., F. D., H. L. and Pauline Anderson.

Winter Haven's first store was built by F. A. K. Harris and a partner named Hovey (whose first name is not known) in 1887. The building was a combination store and lodging house and opened two years after Blount and Whitledge, realtors of Bartow, laid out the town. Several families including the Boyds, Jacksons, Sykes and Eycleshimers lived in and around the town at the time.



William Van Fleet brought the first railroad into Polk County when he pushed the Tampa, St. Johns, Peace Creek rail line into Lake Alfred. The line later became the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway. It changed again and became part of the Plant System and was later obsorbed by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad.

Van Fleet settled in Auburndale and is credited with naming most of the lakes in that area. He was a pioneer in Polk's phosphate industry having organized several of the many companies which worked the phosphate fields around the turn of the century.

H. B. Carter, whose death as a result of an automobile accident in 1924 robbed Lakeland of one of its most valuable citizens, came to Florida in 1895, settling first at Pensacola where he entered the naval stores trade.

In 1898 he moved to Polk County to operate Carter's Mills, one of the largest lumbering mills in the South, at Carter's Corner, east of Lakeland. He also operated a huge lumber mill at St. Petersburg and held interests in citrus.

He moved to Lakeland in 1901, buying the Kibler Hotel which he renamed the Thelma Hotel for his oldest daughter. Shortly before his death he built the Palace Theater in Lakeland. In addition to Thelma (Mrs. George Carr) his children were Leonard, Ethel, David, James and Lula May.

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John Logan, who served 18 years as sheriff of Polk County, was a native of Alabama who spent several years in Indian Territory in the West before moving to Lakeland, during the Spanish-American War.

He returned to Alabama in 1898 where he worked as foreman of a large farm and as a census enumerator. He returned to Lakeland in 1903 with his bride, Elizabeth Lyles, and worked two years as a carpenter before being named police chief.

Three years later he was elected sheriff, a post he filled for four full terms, retiring after his last term because of his health.

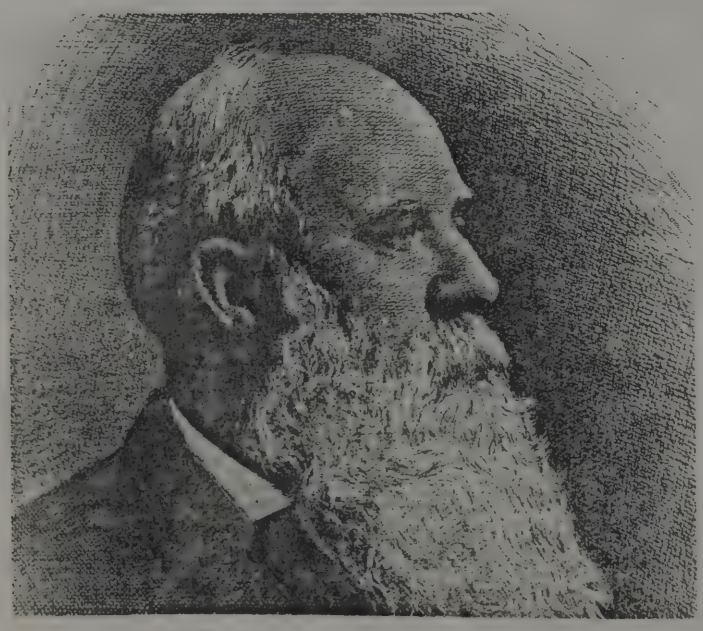
His children included Nila, Shasta, John, Clayton and Betty.

Louis W. Cowdery came to Lakeland in 1884 and entered business with F. L. Brooks in the general merchandise field. At the time of his death 32 years later he was considered one of the area's most influential citizens.

He was a member of the city council for many years, and was the first to suggest that the city purchase the property on which the civic center is now located. He also was instrumental in having Main Street extended to Lake Mirror.

In addition to his business interests, which included commercial property in Lakeland's downtown district, he was an active citrusman. He was the father of three daughters: Catherine, Evelyn and Louise.

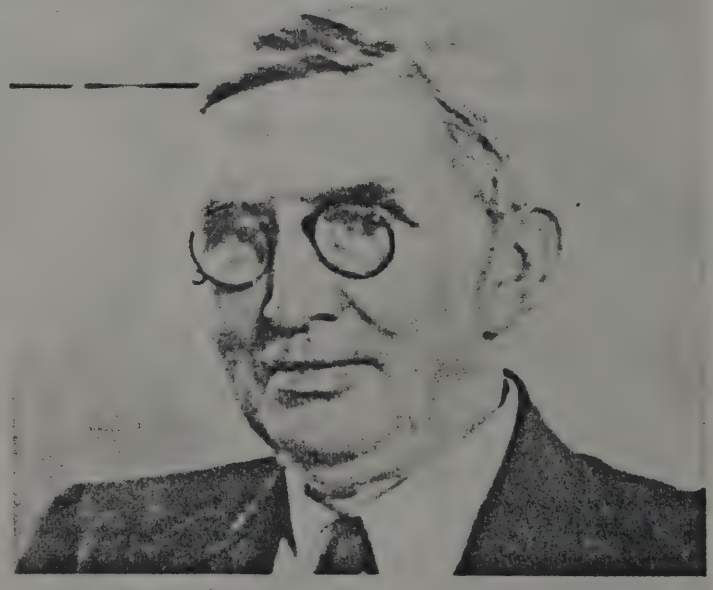
Dr. William Rowan Groover established his medical practice in Lakeland in 1889. Dr. Groover's interests were not confined only to medicine. He became an early financier in Polk County with the opening of the Southern Finance Corporation. Later he organized an insurance agency and owned several citrus groves. One of his daughters, Mary Agnes, is Mrs. Spessard Holland.



Captain William B. Bonacker, born in Germany, came to Polk County in the 1880's and in 1884 opened Lakeland's first business house. During his life in Lakeland he served as city councilman and president of the board; a member of the school board, and as a county commissioner.

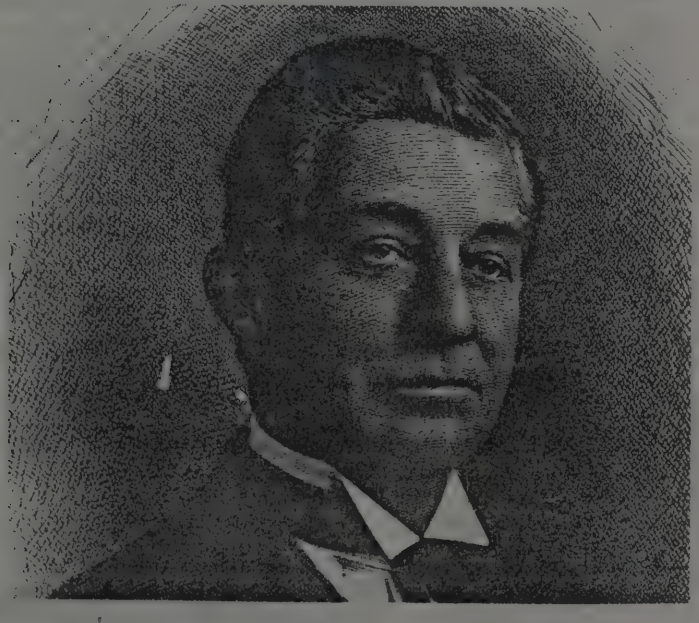
Before moving to Lakeland he had lived in Maryland and in Pennsylvania. At the outbreak of the War Between the States he was general manager of the Johnstown, Pa., Foundry and Machine Shop, a post he left to serve with the Pennsylvania Volunteers. Later he served as captain of Company I, 54th Regiment, until he was wounded at the Battle of New Market.

Among his children were Charles, William, Harry, John H., Alice K., Wesley R., and Dora, who now is Mrs. J. S. Helms, a resident of Tampa.



C. A. Boswell settled in Lakeland in 1886. A railroad employee, he was injured on the job and entered law school in Baltimore while awaiting operations for his crushed leg. After being admitted to the Florida Bar, Boswell served as mayor of Lakeland and was later elected county judge. He married Sue H. Hood of Bartow. They have four children, C. A. Jr., Martha, Frances and Elaine.

Gen. E. M. Law came to Bartow in 1893 looking for a site to establish the South Florida Military School. A Bartow location was selected, and Gen. Law opened the school in September of 1894.

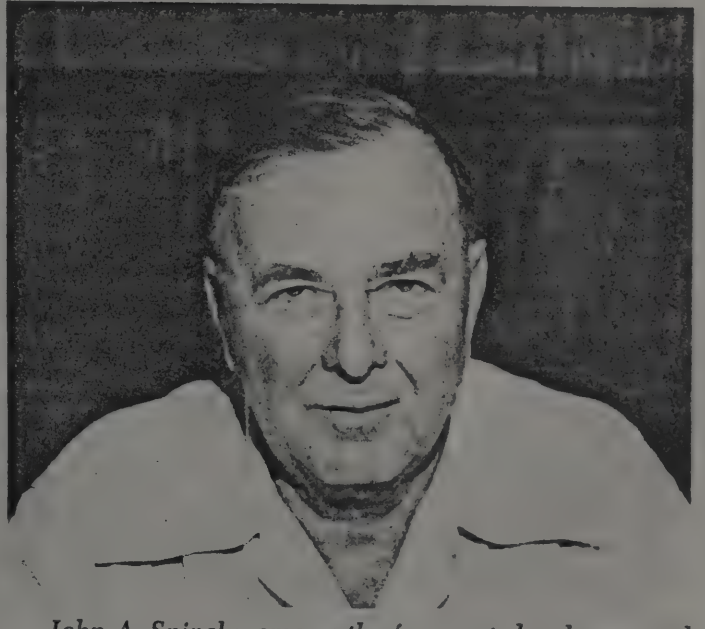


For 39 years, before his death in 1925, S. L. A. Clonts was one of Lakeland's leading businessmen. During his career he also served for three terms as mayor of Lakeland.

A native of Dalton, Ga., he came to Lakeland in 1886, joining the firm of D. H. Sloan & Co. Later he went into business for himself, opening first a grocery, which he sold to devote his time to a dry-goods store.

A son of a Baptist minister, a member of the Baptist Church and a Mason, Clonts and his wife, Harriet M. Powell, had eight children: Zeta, Koopman, Samuel, Fannie, Rachel, Forrest, Arthur, and Esther.

Major Phil Dzialynski was doing a booming business in Fort Meade in 1881. It was reported that he had a contract with a leather firm in Paris to supply it with 5,000 alligator hides. The saurians which were plentiful in the swamps and waterways surrounding Fort Meade were an important industry in the early years of the settlement.



John A. Snively, among the foremost developers and citrus growers of the county, settled in Winter Haven in 1911. Through the Winter Haven Company he developed Inwood and Eloise Woods into more than 4,000 building lots, the largest real estate developments in the county. Snively Groves and Farms are among the leading producers of both citrus and produce in the state.

Snively married Dorothy DeHaven and they had three children, John A. Jr., Evelyn Jewett and Avis.

Kissengen Springs, for more than 50 years a popular swimming 'hole' until it ran dry about 15 years ago.

Early trains bringing tourists into Polk County often made unscheduled stops in orange groves.

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

"It's a great day in Polk County, Florida!"

These words were first spoken on February 8, 1861 when an area of land once part of Hillsborough and Brevard Counties was combined to form a county named after President James K. Polk.

During this era times were considered perilous with wild Indians inhabiting the countryside; huge bear and panther roaming at large; men and women engaged in back-breaking labor, tilling the soil; travel was by ox cart or horse and wagon; and communications were limited to the distant of sound or by word of mouth.

Yet the land was rich in its offering and the pioneers had a spirit of determination and conquest. Their faith was to be justified.

On February 8, 1961 this same land was bursting at the seams with prosperity and progress. Within its boundaries lay the phosphate capital of the world; the citrus capital of the world; a great cattle empire; the heart of Florida's multi-million tourist industry. Nearly a score of cities comprised Polk County; all with modern highways, communications and facilities, schools and hospitals.

A proud county took another step forward to tell the state and nation of its history and progress with a giant year-long Centennial Celebration. Although many outstanding citizens were thinking of the celebration it was Mrs. Mary Anne Campbell of Lakeland who took positive steps to bring about such an event.

When she went before the Board of County Commissioners she not only found a sympathetic and willing group but a body of men who took the leadership and initiative in establishing the celebration.

Next was the formation of an executive committee headed by Aldine Combee of Lakeland which engaged Al R. McFadyen, former publicity director of Cypress Gardens, as the director. A general committee was organized with Robert J. Eastman, Winter Haven, chairman, with C. C. Street, Bartow, later selected as permanent chairman.

Soon every city within the county was enlisted in the celebration and a schedule of events announced.

The scene that took place in Bartow on Thursday, February 8, was typical of the celebration to be repeated in Winter Haven, Mulberry, Lakeland, Ft. Meade, Lake Alfred, Lake Wales, Haines City (Davenport, Dundee, Lake Hamilton), Frostproof, Auburndale and others.

Hundreds of men and women were attired in colorful costumes representing the late 1800's. Men proudly stroked their beards grown for the historical affair while admiring their women in gingham dresses of street length with bonnets tied underneath their chins. Later in the day a parade befitting the one hundredth birthday moved down the main streets as spectators gawked at the ox drawn carts; the horse drawn surrey with the fringe on the top; the firemen's brigade pulling a round wheel wagon with wrapped hose; scores of horses carried characters depicting the earliest pioneer as well as the early Indians; in the line of march came hundreds of citizens portraying the pioneer spirit of their kinfolks with many costumes of heirloom origin.

After proper ceremonies and the dedication of a replica of the first courthouse people danced in the streets while the band played on.

A county-wide program was set with rodeos, air shows, boat shows, water ski tournaments, parades, beard contests, citrus contests, beauty contests, fishing contests, fiddling contests, fireworks; sports events including baseball, football, tennis, golf and boating events; horse show, picnics and pioneer recognition days.

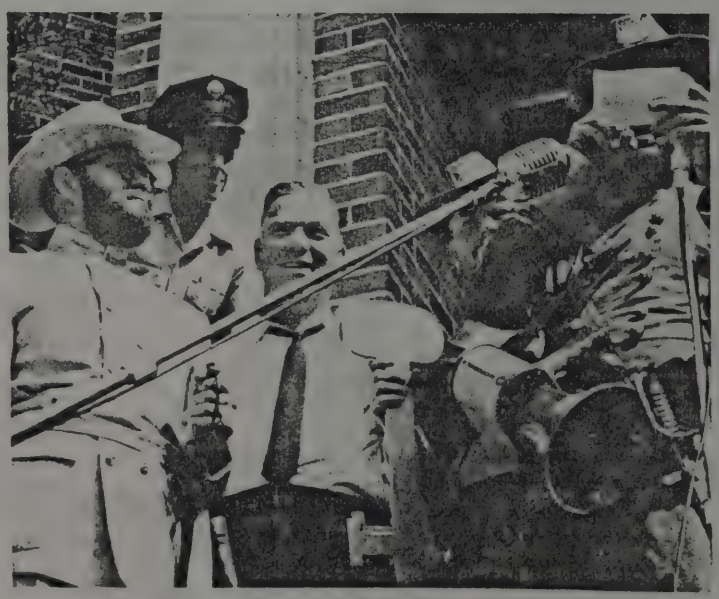
The Billy Graham Crusade highlighted the religious activities. Lovely Jimmie Nell Ennis was crowned centennial queen; Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians played to packed houses; Polk's favorite son, United States Senator Spessard L. Holland, was honored; a giant outdoor spectacular "Century In The Sun" was written and produced with a cast of hundreds supported by exciting music and scenes based on the authentic history of Polk County.

Cities invaded cities with mock battles. Polk County boasted more Confederate generals than actually fought in the War Between the States, and with more colonels than privates holding special ranks. A "real" general, James A. Van Fleet, another Polk County favorite son, led the defense of a Confederate attack on the City Hall in Auburndale. The spirit of the pioneers of 1861 lived on in the pioneers of 1961.

As someone said, *"It's a great day in Polk County, Florida!"*

Replica of Polk County's first courthouse built to serve as centennial headquarters.

On the courthouse steps – Barbara Perriman, Pat Watts and Cliff Lewis.



Gen. James A. Van Fleet, the hatless gentleman in the center, surrenders the keys to Auburndale to the Brush Brigade.

The National Guard successfully defended Lakeland's city hall during centennial skirmishes with insurgents.

Florida Southern College float bids Polk County a 'Happy Birthday' in the official Centennial-founder's day parade, Lakeland.

Volunteers of the Auburndale Brush Brigade swamp city hall defenders led by Gen. James A. Van Fleet.

Beards, bonnets, parades, little 'civil' wars, preaching and gala festivals highlight the year-long centennial celebration.

POLK TODAY AND TOMORROW

Polk County has come a long way since its birth one-hundred years ago, from a raw land tended by a handful of hardy pioneers clawing out an existence from the soil and forest to a progressive family of cities rich in agriculture, industry and natural resources. The giant strides of Polk County during the past century, however, have only brought it to the threshold of its potential.

Today's generation has inherited not only one of the wealthiest counties in Florida, but also the responsibility to develop these 1,863 square miles to their highest and best use. Polk's 200,000 citizens are also pioneers, just as their forefathers were in the years past. The early settlers found the land; converted the forests into farms; discovered the wealth beneath the land; built homes and cities.

Pioneers during the county's second century are forging ahead as their forefathers did, blazing trails through education, science and technology to complete the discovery merely started by early settlers. Polk is well endowed with raw materials, friendly ambitious people, a network of communication and transportation systems and a climate conducive to both people and industry.

Polk stands today a land of 1,274,880 acres dotted by more than 600 lakes. It is the home of 200,000 persons and host to thousands more each year who come to visit. Polk is both the center and top of Florida. Geographically, Polk is midway between both coasts and the north-south boundries of the state. Polk is also the center of the state's population and claims the highest elevation — Iron Mountain.

Polk's homes, churches, schools, industries and recreational areas are serviced by three major electric power companies, two major railroads, natural gas lines and are linked together by more than 2,700 miles of paved roads and highways and several airports.

The county's current annual payroll totals nearly $100 million paid to a work force of nearly 36,000 by approximately 2,000 employers. Polk's citrus industry which produces 30 per cent of the state's oranges and grapefruit and the phosphate industry which produces 80 per cent of the nation's phosphate are presently the county's biggest employers. Pensioners who have completed their life's work add $2,000,000 to the county's economy each year from their retirement incomes.

There are 17 incorporated municipalities in Polk County with a combined population of 110,891, according to the 1960 federal census. Polk is the second largest county in size and eighth largest in population in the state.

The county's 17 cities have banded together this year, the first of the second century, to plan a coordinated industrial expansion program. Organized in the form of the Polk County Development Board these cities seek to both attract new industry and screen out undesirable industries looking for new locations in this growing region.

Another major plan for Polk's future is expected to be launched this year in the form of water conservation and flood control devices in the Peace River and its watershed, which includes three-fourths of the county. The plan is being proposed by the Peace River Valley Water Conservation and Drainage District. It calls for the construction of several miles of canals linking most of the county's major lakes and streams with the river, and the building of dams and reservoirs which will stabilize both the water table and surface levels of the major bodies of water throughout the county.

In providing a necessary water supply for the planned growth of Polk County, this $5.5 million project will also open new areas for recreational purposes.

Another phase of Polk's planned future calls for a county zoning law. The people will be asked to approve this law to provide for an orderly expansion of housing, industry and agriculture. Several of the major cities have begun ambitious urban renewal developments and several other cities are gearing their municipal machinery for urban renewal as the second century pioneers of Polk County launch a determined drive for planned progress during the coming years.

A firm future built on a great past.